

WALSALL CHRONICLE

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Focus on

School sends good wishes to new Pope

Page 24



New strip

Kit inspires girls and boys teams to victory

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Arrests over EDL protest violence

POLICE swooped on homes across the Black Country, including two addresses in Walsall, to arrest people suspected of violent disorder during a protest in the town by the EDL.

Seven men aged between 17 and 59 were arrested during the early morning raids on Tuesday. Police also seized items of clothing.

It comes after violence erupted in Walsall town centre on September 29 during the English Defence League demonstration.

Officers swooped on homes across the region including Eagleworks Drive, Walsall and a home in Brownhills.

Homes in Walker Street and Alexandra Road, Tipton, were targeted, as well as Coles Lane in West Bromwich Greswold Street in Hateley Heath and an address in Acocks Green.

Officers have been scouring hours of CCTV footage under Operation Spineknar since the violence broke out.

Det Insp Pete Dunn, from Force CID, said: "We have viewed a significant amount of CCTV footage and media footage with view to finding the people responsible."

"Since September we have been working to identify others who were involved in the disorder and now we are in a position to make further arrests, whilst appealing for information to identify other suspects we are yet to trace."

Getting set for night market

ORGANISERS are making last minute preparations for Walsall's second night market today (Thursday).

More than 60 stalls are booked for the event in the town centre, running between 5pm and 9pm.

Scores of shoppers headed to the one-off night market last autumn and organisers have promised it will be bigger and better on its return. Free parking will be offered at council-run car parks. Food stalls, a liquor licence and street entertainment are planned.

Co-op returns to town and brings 100 jobs

THE Midcounties Co-operative is to reopen its old offices in Walsall which have stood empty for two years, creating 100 jobs.

They will all be customer service posts.

Co-op is re-opening its offices in Hatherton Road which closed two years ago.

At the time 27 call centre staff were relocated elsewhere or

asked to work from home. Workers from the Midcounties' domestic energy supply business, Co-operative Energy, will occupy the offices and it will become operational from next month.

Bosses at Midcounties say the news is a boost to the area.

Ben Reid, chief executive of Warwick-headquartered Midcounties, said: "The success of

Co-operative Energy is enabling us to invest further in Walsall, a trading heartland, where we already have a major travel agency business, funeral homes and pharmacies.

Single

"Since we launched in 2011 to provide a co-operative alternative to the 'big six' energy companies the customer base has gone from

strength to strength. "People have responded positively to our straightforward, honest

approach to the industry, with a single tariff that offers fair pricing for everyone.

"At a time when the economy continues to be difficult it's pleasing to be able to announce the creation of new jobs."

Co-operative Energy supplies

gas and electricity to more than 100,000 households.

The news follows the creation of 25 jobs at a new Midcounties convenience food store in Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood, which opened last week.

Bloxwich Road is currently home to a Midcounties administrative support team of 30 which will move to Hatherton Road.

Arboretum gets boost with 10,000 tree plant

TEN thousand trees have been planted at Walsall Arboretum as the creation of a £400,000 country park gets under way at the borough's biggest park.

Oak, birch and black poplar trees have all been planted in a bid to help entice more visitors.

Trees have been planted at the former Grange Golf Course, in the Arboretum Extension, with a second phase of planting due later this year.

But work is now being carried out to create the long-awaited country park, which will cover around 17 hectares once it is complete.

More tree planting will take place in November, and work will be carried out over the summer to help establish the 10,000 newly planted trees.

A feasibility study for the country park and its timescales will be published later this year and will go out to public consultation.

Leisure bosses said the new country park will also complement the multi-million pound revamp of Walsall Arboretum.

A total of £7.5 million is being spent restoring and transforming the historic park under a separate scheme.

Anthony Harris, the council's cabinet member for leisure, said the country park was a way of bringing the countryside to the town centre.

College praised for its success

A GOVERNMENT minister has written to Walsall College to congratulate staff and students on its outstanding Ofsted report.

The college became the first of its kind in the country to earn an outstanding under tough new rules and inspectors praised success rates of students.

Skills Minister Matthew Hancock has added his congratulations. In a letter, he said: "They are a shining example and I want other colleges to learn from what they have achieved."

APOLOGY OVER HAVOC IN SNOW



A huge snow drift outside Barr Beacon School, which was one of the ones closed



A lone walker battles through the snow and ice along Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge

AN APOLOGY has been issued by council chiefs after roads in Walsall were left treacherous when gritting was carried out too late. The heavy weekend snowfall caused havoc across the borough and lead to more than 50 schools being closed at the start of the week.

Residents complained of gritting not being carried out overnight on Saturday, unlike other neighbouring authorities, with some routes forced to shut.

Highways bosses admitted they could have gone out earlier but insisted it was predicted there would be 'mostly light' snowfall.

They insisted ploughs and gritters would have been sent onto roads much earlier on Sunday if the data and forecast from meteorological experts had warned of a dawn downpour.

However, they maintained that heavy snow flurries caused by the biting, easterly wind, would not have been possible to clear by snow ploughs in any case.

Transport chief, councillor Tom Ansell, said: "We are admitting that yes, we could have gone out earlier."

Shame

"We understand residents' frustration and anxiety when they compare Walsall to other areas."

"But we base our decisions on experts' data on road conditions and forecasts that are specific to Walsall, and react accordingly."

"We were not expecting a dawn snowfall - if we had been we would have reacted differently. We mobilised crews at around 9am."

"Throughout Friday night and Saturday plenty of grit was put down and people were thanking us for our efforts. It's a shame that

by Craig Hughes

they have now had cause to criticise us but it is understandable.

"Our gritting crews work extremely hard. We don't claim to get it right every time and we are only human."

He added there had been problems of cars not moving to allow gritters to carry out necessary gritting. There were also reports of motorists ignoring closures.

Councillor Ansell said: "I'm sorry to say that residents refused to move their cars to allow our wagons access."

"The teams were only trying to do their jobs in difficult conditions and did try to explain but it was futile."

Some roads such as Longwood Road in Aldridge and Old Hall Lane in Barr Beacon closed, while drivers also urged to avoid Chester Road in Brownhills. JCBs and snow ploughs were sent out to clear routes.

Schools to close on Monday included Barr Beacon, Brownhills West Primary, Calmore Primary and Shire Oak Academy.

Bin collections were also hit and residents whose waste was not been collected have been asked to put their rubbish out again next week. They can also put up to three additional bags out for collection.

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CONTACT US

Got a story to tell or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Walsall:

Tom Mason: 01902 319466
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319490
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01384 353213
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Catherine Dalton: 01922 444313
catherine.dalton@expressandstar.co.uk
Craig Hughes: 01922 444316
craig.hughes@expressandstar.co.uk
Lisa O'Brien: 01922 444312
lisa.obrien@expressandstar.co.uk
Marion Brennan: 01543 465302
marion.brennan@expressandstar.co.uk

Email your pictures to:
walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Sports: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic: John Sambrooks
Tel: 01902 319431
Email: j.sambrooks@expressandstar.co.uk

Advertising: Samantha Broad
Tel: 01543 465331
E-mail: s.broad@expressandstar.co.uk

Property: Marguerita Finnegan
Tel: 01543 465337
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring: Jayne La'Hiffe
Tel: 01543 465334
E-mail: j.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319537
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Queen Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

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Bus interchange set to be improved

THE bus interchange in Darlaston is to undergo improvements to provide better waiting facilities and passenger information.

A better crossing will also be provided in St Lawrence Way under proposals being developed by Walsall Council and Centro.

The news has been welcomed by Councillor Doug James, who said the two organisations had listened to bus users. Around £30,000 has

been set aside by the council in the next financial year to develop plans for highways work. Firm details of the scheme and costs are still under consideration but a design is being put together by the two bodies.

Centro spokesman Peter Cameron said: "Plans are at an early stage and funding sources are being looked at. Any development will need to be considered in conjunction with other schemes in the local

area." Council transport chief Councillor Tom Ansell added: "We've set aside £30,000 to come up with a set of designs to introduce safer crossing facilities adjacent to the Asda car park in St Lawrence Way, Darlaston.

"It's a scheme which we anticipate will involve Centro and the supermarket, and we're aiming to improve the general facilities for bus passengers also."

It comes as there are fresh plans

for a new bus interchange in Walsall town centre, worth up to £14 million, being considered to include a bus station, taxi rank, coach services and car drop-off facilities.

It is part of an overall programme which includes improving the M6 road network and Lichfield Road. This is subject to getting Government cash but up to £25m could be used to improve junction 10.

● Letter - Page 7

Hundreds book in as library opens its doors

MORE than 800 people passed through the doors of Pelsall's new library on its first day.

Customers flocked to check out the new library, part of the Pelsall Village Centre, in High Street.

It opened on Tuesday last week, following some delays, but visitors gave it their approval.

The ground floor of the two storey building boasts a library, children's centre and pharmacy while the top floor has a health centre with space for four GPs.

Zoe Venables, from Pelsall, brought her 26-month-old daughter Ava to the children's area.

"I love the fact that there is now a library, children's centre, pharmacy and doctors all under one roof," she said.

"The new library is fantastic, it's really well laid out and there's a lovely area for children to play and read."

Pensioners Derek and Sheila Baker, from Pelsall, attended the library opening and said they were really impressed.

Lovely

"We used the old Pelsall Library at least once or twice a week and we are really impressed with the new library," Mrs Baker said.

"We don't have a computer at home so we like to come to the library to use the computers as well as to take out books."

"The new library has a lovely computer area which is really bright and spacious."

"It's fantastic that some money has been invested into Pelsall."

Lyn Lovern, community librarian for the area, said: "The reception has been fantastic. People have been commenting on how good it looks."

The library has a woodland theme to match Pelsall Common.

New books have been added to the stock and there are also computers, interest and information.

The new library has longer opening hours than the old library and is open Tuesdays to Fridays from 9am to 6pm. The new library has longer opening hours than the old library and is open Tuesday to



Family support worker Sara Littleton supervises youngsters at play in the children's centre outdoor area



Lisa Willis and William Perry in the children's library



Visitors at work on computers at Pelsall Village Centre

Friday from 9am to 6pm and on Saturday 9am to 4pm. Unlike the old library it will stay open at lunchtimes.

Councillor Anthony Harris, portfolio holder for leisure and culture, said: "We're delighted with the positive response we have had from local residents about the new library and

the centre. It is an excellent facility."

The High Street centre opened before Christmas when two GP practices opened their doors.

Its name was chosen after a public poll to find suitable new identity.

The library replaces the service based in Norton Road.

The ground floor of the centre fea-

tures a library, pharmacy and children's centre along with health offices and treatment rooms.

On the first floor there is a health centre with space to accommodate four GP practices.

This is complemented by a large open-plan waiting area, treatment and consultation rooms.

Six to face court over an alleged fan attack

FOUR men and two teenage boys have appeared in court in connection with an alleged attack at Walsall railway station.

A 56-year-old Portsmouth fan from Surrey, suffered a broken jaw. The incident is said to have followed the Saddlers match against Portsmouth at Banks's Stadium on January 4.

Peter Harvey, aged 33, from Hollands Road, Bloxwich, appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court last week charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent and affray.

Anthony Clarke, 26, of Dartmouth Close, Walsall, and Scott Forrester, 25, Whateley Avenue, Walsall, and Christopher Genders, 21, of Cemetery Road, Wilenhall, also appeared charged with affray, along with two 14-year-old boys, who cannot be named for legal reasons.

The case has been committed to Wolverhampton Crown Court where the defendants were expected to enter pleas on Wednesday.

All adult defendants were given conditional bail, including not visiting Walsall railway station or attending regulated football matches.

The youths were given conditional bail, preventing them from going within one mile of Banks's Stadium for three hours before the start of end of a game.

Families tell of concerns

DRUG use, anti-social behaviour and litter were some of the key issues raised by residents at a Question Time style event in Walsall.

People from Birchills, Leamore, Blakenall and Bloxwich attended the event, which was uploaded onto Twitter for the first time, along with representatives from West Midlands Police, Walsall Council, the fire service, NHS Walsall and social landlords.

Concerns were raised about anti-social behaviour suffered by people living near a piece of greenbelt land off Goscoe Lane, known locally as The Lea.

Council communities boss Ian Shires hailed it as a big success. "It gave local people the opportunity to put questions to officers from these services in a relaxed and informal setting," he said.

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Praise for absence figure fall

A DROP in the number of children who are persistently absent from schools in Walsall has been welcomed by the council leader.

The figure for persistent absence was lower than the national average.

A total of 4.8 per cent of pupils from Walsall schools were classed as persistently absent – which is defined as those who miss the equivalent of a month of school.

The national average is 5.2 per cent.

Walsall fared better than its Black Country neighbours in the figures released by the Department for Education for 2011 to 2012.

Council leader Mike Bird said: "Improvements are attributed to Walsall retaining a dedicated service to address absence in our schools."

"Schools have the opportunity to commission dedicated education welfare support to help manage absence and this improvement is as a direct result of schools and welfare officers working together to address this matter."

He said Walsall supports schools to issue fines over unauthorised holidays.

Challenge is a tall order

A CHARITY fundraiser from Willenhall, who is aiming to run the London marathon on stilts, is bidding for a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Glyn Marston, aged 49, competed in more than 100 marathons and ultra marathons until a knee injury forced him to stop. Since then he has competed as a wheelchair athlete but his latest challenge will see him opt for the unusual method.

Mr Marston, of Essington Road, has been told if he completes the 26 miles in under eight hours, he may be able to write his name in the record books. He can be sponsored at www.justgiving.com/glyn-marston-onstilts

Egg hunting

WALSALL Council has organised egg hunts for youngsters this Easter. Willenhall's Memorial Park will start the fun on Friday followed on Saturday by King George V Playing Fields, Bloxwich, Holland Park, Brownhills on Sunday, Palfrey Park on Monday and Pleck Park on Tuesday. All start at 10.30am.

£3,000 postal scam couple spared prison

A WILLENHALL husband and wife who tried to pocket £3,000 in fake compensation claims from Royal Mail have been spared immediate stints behind bars.

Parvinder and Baljit Nijjar said packages containing £500 and a £2,450 diamond ring had not reached their intended destinations. But they had never been sent and the couple had falsely filled in forms in a bid to get compensation payouts.

Baljit Nijjar had access to documentation needed to lodge a compensation claim because she worked at the post office on Stourbridge High Street, Wolverhampton

Magistrates Court heard on Monday. Her husband had previously worked at the branch and both had run their own post office before being declared insolvent.

The court heard how one of the packages was to be delivered just 400 yards from their Willenhall home in Marshall Road. A mobile number registered to Baljit Nijjar was used on one form, claiming she was the intended receiver of the goods, while the other claim form stated she was the sender.

Mr John Dove, prosecuting, said the claims, which were made within just three minutes of each other on June 13 last year,

were an "attempted scam". Baljit Nijjar filled the two packets with screwed up paper and gave them to her sister-in-law, who she also worked with at the post office.

Her sister-in-law processed them, believing they were genuine. But afterwards Baljit Nijjar removed the parcels from the post bag, and they were never sent, said Mr Dove.

The couple, both aged 36, pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud by false representation. Mr Dove said she owed her sister-in-law £7,000 and was working at the post office without wages to help pay off the debt.

Both were given a six-week prison sen-

tence, suspended for a year, and ordered to pay £1,155 costs each. They must also carry out 150 hours of unpaid work each.

Chairman of magistrates Mr Dennis Davies said they would have faced an immediate prison term were it not for their early guilty pleas.

Mr Timothy Gascoyne, defending, said his clients had suffered financial difficulties and were now insolvent.

He added their scam was "badly conceived" and was "never going to work". He said they both had new jobs and were trying to make ends meet.

Better road safety pledge over detectors at kerbside

NEW kerbside detectors being installed on a busy Walsall road will help improve safety and traffic flow, it has been claimed. The work in West Bromwich Road, Delves, will take four weeks.

by Catherine Dalton

The detectors let traffic lights know when a person is waiting to cross the road and are being installed close to the junction with Bell Lane.

Walsall's roads chief Tom Ansell said: "The pelican crossing on West Bromwich Road will be changed to a puffin crossing which will allow people more time to cross the road if they need it. "Meanwhile, new signal technology will use kerbside detectors which detect the presence of pedestrians on the crossing."

Prevent

"The use of these detectors will avoid delays that are currently caused when pedestrians have crossed in the gaps of traffic."

"The work will take around four weeks to complete, weather permitting, and we thank people for their patience while this worthwhile scheme is carried out."

Sensors will pick up when a walker is waiting to cross the road and prevent the wait drivers face at red lights, despite nobody crossing the road.

The same improvements have also been made at acci-

dent hotspot Caldmore Green, Caldmore. Kerbside detectors have also been installed there as part of a £500,000 scheme.

Work there was carried out after long-standing calls to improve safety measures in Caldmore.

Similar calls have been made for West Bromwich Road following collisions there.

Some residents have previously said it can be difficult to cross West Bromwich Road due to the speed of some drivers.

Walsall Council has also said signal improvements at the junction at Walstead Road are being planned.

A change to the junction layout to create two lanes – one for turning right – at the junction of Walstead Road has also been earmarked.

In November 2011, brothers Asif Javed, aged 23, and 18-year-old Naveed Aslam were killed in a crash on West Bromwich Road.

A 29-year-old man was seriously injured after the car he was in crashed into a lamppost in the road on March 13.

Monty is prize pooch

A PET accessories firm has chosen a canine model to promote its new trade catalogue. Ancol, Leamore Lane, Bloxwich, says Monty, a seven-month-old Transylvanian bloodhound, beat more than 750 others to win its dog model competition and star on the front cover of their 2013/14 catalogue. Monty was one of 15 finalists invited to a casting day at Ancol's offices this month. Birmingham Dogs Home Sunnyside manager Karen Doy joined Ancol's sales director Sarah Lane in helping choose Monty, from, Leicestershire.



Ship ahoy! Prince's Trust members at the sensory garden they created at the school

Sensory garden launched

A SCHOOL garden is coming up with rosemary, thyme and other herbs after young people on a Prince's Trust scheme created a plot.

They spent two weeks at Jane Lane School, Churchill Road, Bentley, Walsall, in sub-zero temperatures on some days, and worked through two days of snow to complete the sensory garden to meet their deadline.

The eight raised all £2,000 needed themselves through bag-packing at supermarkets and a sponsored leg wax.

The 16 to 25 year old built a wooden boat-like structure to display plants and demolished a brick surround.

Team leader Jane Littlehales: "That was complete hard labour, although none of it was easy, despite that, everyone really loved working on the garden. We had fantastic comments from the children and teachers who said it was absolutely brilliant."

The work was part of a 12-week personal development programme, including two weeks fundraising. They were helped by goods donated by builders' merchant Travis Perkins, Walsall. Four had legs waxed at St Paul's Church, Walsall, raising £80.

Eighteen months ago the trust built a polytunnel and vegetable beds at the school.

NEWS in brief

Money will help Polish to adapt

A CENTRE in Walsall that helps Polish people to integrate has received a grant of £21,000.

Sweda, which is based in West Bromwich and supports social enterprises in the West Midlands, has given the money to the Midlands Polish Community Centre to help new arrivals access education and school places. The centre runs a Saturday school teaching children Polish language, history and geography as well as teaching adults English.

Headteacher Elizabeth Kardynall, said: "Sweda showed considerable understanding of our needs and major challenges."

Unemployment rises in borough

Job queues in Walsall are getting longer as new figures showed a jump in the UK's unemployed rising by 7,000 between November and January to 2.52 million.

Nationwide, the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance last month fell by 1,500 to 1.54 million, the Office for National Statistics said. The figures differ because not everyone classed as unemployed is eligible to claim the benefit.

In Walsall, the count rose by 298 to 10,565, or 6.3 per cent of the borough's working population, way above the UK average of 3.9 per cent.

Eyes down to help beat crime

POLICE officers turned out bingo callers to dish out crime prevention advice at a community centre in Moxley.

More than 80 pensioners were at Moxley Peoples Centre, Queen Street, as officers dished out advice at the Golden 55s club, which runs every Wednesday. Crime prevention packs were handed out.

Pc Ian Probert, from Darlston Police station, said: "We went along to the club to give the members some advice, but ended up helping out with the bingo."

Raising concerns

RESIDENTS can raise any concerns in the neighbourhood and learn about services available at the High Heath and Sheffield Forum takes place at the Autumn Close Community Centre, on Tuesday from 7.30pm. A representative from Manor Farm Community Association will attend.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE real House of Commons is not the fiery place you saw for the opening of the Budget debate with the big beasts of Government and Opposition hurling razor-barbed sound-bites at each other as a packed chamber roared its approval or outrage. The real Commons, as it exists for 90 per cent of its time, is the near-empty, echoing place we saw six hours later. In this forlorn lost world the last speaker of the day, plucky Emma Reynolds (Lab, Wolverhampton NE) was banging on about inner-city mortality rates and unequal societies. A dozen or so MPs didn't even pretend to listen and a couple of rude old duffers talked loudly throughout her impassioned speech. It's not all glamour, being an MP.

THE new Pope urges us all to pray for him. The Archbishop of Canterbury is off on a pilgrimage of prayer and he, too, wants us to join in his prayers. You see the difficulty? If prayer worked, we wouldn't need to be encouraged to do it. But it doesn't work, so we don't.

A READER tells me his wife died last July and when his policy came up for renewal a few days ago, he was horrified to see the premium had increased by 50 per cent, because he is now the sole driver. He took it up with the call centre where a lady sympathised but refused to budge, explaining that this huge rise was "the industry standard." Funny, isn't it, how all those happy, snappy, chummy TV adverts for car insurance never mention this sort of thing?

THE BBC Magazine raises the issue of bereavement leave, statutory time off work when a loved one dies. So far the Government has declined to intervene, on the grounds that the right to "reasonable time" off is already included in the 1996 Employment Rights Act, and that some people take longer to grieve than others. And that's the problem. Once they started granting automatic leave, we could discover a new version of Parkinson's Law: grief expands to fit the time off available. Let me know your thoughts.

AFTER the Connecticut primary-school massacre in December, Americans talked boldly of getting to grips with gun control. At the very least, politicians planned to outlaw assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Now, both plans have been quietly shelved. It was a very simple question: What does the United States cherish more, its children or its guns? Now we know.

SCIENTISTS in Oklahoma believe swallows may be evolving shorter wings to help them get out of the way of cars. The new short-winged swallows are faster and more agile and therefore less likely to get flattened by a Chevy. Hedgehogs of Britain! Are you listening?

GREAT Theological Questions of Our Time. A reader recalls that Pope Benedict always wore red shoes. He asks: "Is it because he used Cardinal polish?"

DID a number of MPs fiddle their parliamentary expenses some years ago? Or were they just confused by a very complicated system? Isn't it time we all took a more understanding and sympathetic view of these hard-working public servants whose only crime is to want to make the world a kinder, better place? (Note: This column complies in every respect with the requirements of the Royal Charter on the Press).

IN THE summer of 1987 I reviewed an open-air production of Richard II at Ludlow Festival. Behind me were two old ladies who could have nattered for England. When the tall, stately figure of John of Gaunt strode on stage to deliver one of the most moving speeches in the English language, those two old ladies erupted in loud whispers: "Ooh, look, it's him, that man from the programme on telly. The one about a department store. He's Captain Peacock." And so it was. Frank Thornton, who died peacefully recently aged 92, may have been best remembered from Are You Being Served? but he was also a fine stage actor.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Public support £12m scheme

A PLANNED £12 million leisure complex earmarked for Walsall would boost the local economy by around £4m a year, it is claimed.

More than 800 people had their say at a public consultation over plans for an Odeon cinema, bar and restaurant scheme at Walsall Waterfront.

Developer Kier Property said they it was overwhelmed with the support for the scheme and a planning application will be submitted in the next few weeks.

Under the plans, a nine-screen Odeon would be built, along with restaurants and bars while links to the town centre would also be improved. More than 250 jobs would be created.

James Nicholson, Kier Property's senior devel-

opment manager, said: "The site has been identified as the most strategically important for this type of development in Walsall as it will help to revitalise the town centre.

"The additional footfall it will attract, alongside the inward investment and new jobs will all combine to play a positive part on local life to the tune of around £4 million a year."

Consultation

Two cinema plans have now been unveiled for Walsall, with a Vue cinema also earmarked for land next to the town's Tesco store in Wisemore.

A two-day public consultation was held last week at the New Art Gallery over the Waterfront proposals, with members of the public and busi-

ness bosses turning up to have their say on the leisure scheme.

Pat Newland, chairman of Walsall's Premier Business Park and managing director of Relko Group, said: "The people attracted to the cinema will visit retail outlets and be likely to start or finish their entertainment experience in existing and new restaurants."

The 64,500 sq ft leisure development will be built at the north side of the canal, which has been undergoing a multi-million pound regeneration over the past few years.

Hundreds of new homes have been built on the south side, while a 100-bed Premier Inn hotel also opened at the end of last year.

Promise to protect memorials

A FORMER church in Darlaston has been sold, sparking a search for a new home for one of its war memorials.

St Andrew's Church closed in 2009 when the congregation became too small to cover the running costs. It was in need of £250,000 worth of repairs.

It is home to two memorials, one for each world war, and calls have been made for them to be protected.

The vicar of St Bartholomew's Church, in Wednesbury, parent church for the former St Andrew's, revealed the war memorials would be preserved.

Relocated

The Second World War memorial is in the form of a brass plaque and this has been relocated to St Bartholomew's in Little Hill. But a new home is being sought for the First World War memorial, which is larger and built into the building.

Mr Vashby-Burnie, vicar of the parish, said: "We have retained ownership of the war memorials. The new owner will be giving the Second World War memorial to us in due course.

"I have met with many people with fond memories of St Andrew's Church. Many people felt a sense of loss when it closed for worship and no doubt will feel the same when they hear about its sale.

"Opportunities to keep the building as a place of worship did not prove possible. It has now been sold."

Three-year driving ban

A DRINK-DRIVER caught over the limit for the third time has been banned from the road for three years.

Police stopped Wayne Adams, 26, in Sneyd Lane, Bloxwich, on February 23.

Adams, of Fountain Road, Mossley, had 55 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The limit is 35. He admitted drink driving at Walsall Magistrates Court. The court heard he had been to a wake for a relative.

Vandal fined

A MAN who smashed the window of a centre in Walsall after drinking vodka has been ordered to pay more than £400 by magistrates. Ashley Aldridge, 24, of Fishers Road, Bloxwich, admitted causing criminal damage to the Glee Centre in Wednesbury Road.

MP concerned at closure of surgery

HEALTH service bosses are being urged to intervene in plans to close a GP surgery in Willenhall, which would leave around 1,300 patients having to travel further for care.

Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden has written to the head of primary care for the region asking her to look into setting up another surgery for the Portobello area, between Willenhall and Bilston.

Boss calls for more taxi ranks

Partners at the Portobello Medical Centre, in Diloways Lane, Willenhall, have been unable to negotiate a lease with the building's new landlord and will shut its doors on Tuesday, April 30.

Mr McFadden believes it will leave people cut off from healthcare because alternative surgeries are a bus ride away in Bilston or Walsall.

Mr McFadden said: "I am very worried about a serious gap in GP services opening up in the Portobello area.

Elderly

"Many of the patients using the current surgery are elderly and immobile and it is not easy to get from Portobello to other places.

"I am appealing to the NHS Commissioning Board to work with local GPs to try to ensure the continuation of GP services in Portobello."

In a letter to Donna McArthur, the head of primary care for the NHS Team in Birmingham, Mr McFadden added: "The area faces being left without a GP practice and I would be very grateful for any help you can offer in working with local GPs to fill this gap."

Mr Khalid said: "There's only three main taxi ranks in the town centre. There's about seven or eight spaces at The Bridge, six spaces at Bradford Place and three or four spaces at the train station.

"Having more taxi ranks would improve trade and mean people are waiting for a shorter amount of time.

"We would benefit if they were in the other towns like Aldridge, Willenhall, Bloxwich," he added.

Pupils use their loaf



Gareth Matthews, of Bentley, with his twins Lily and Lewis, aged four, during a visit by Warburtons staff at Rosedale Infant School in Willenhall

WORKERS from a bakery firm dropped in to speak to school pupils in Willenhall in a bid to raise awareness of healthy eating.

Warburtons staff gave a demonstration to parents and more than 60 children from Rosedale CofE School.

The visit was all part of an initiative organised by the Stroud Avenue school called Mind, Body and Soul that saw the company come into the school and show the benefits of eating healthily.

As part of the event, Warburtons showed children from the school's Reception and

Year 2 classes how to make sandwiches as well as handing out free loaves to parents.

Fast food chain McDonald's also gave a exhibition on healthy eating and supplied fruit packs to pupils.

Deb Walton, interim head of school at Rosedale, said: "The event was organised by our RE co-ordinator Mrs Pauline Cottam who contacted Warburtons to tell them about our Mind, Body and Soul event. We had a really good turnout from parents which goes to show how important the subject of healthy is to them too."

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Housing instead of hostel planned

A DERELICT former library site in Walsall is set to be marketed for housing, following concerns from residents that a 91-bedroom complex for vulnerable teenagers could be built there.

Land once occupied by the old Coalpool Library and clinic has been standing empty for years but is now being earmarked for regeneration.

Fears over the future use of the area off Ross Road and Coalpool Lane were raised following an initial inquiry for the land to become a 91-bed complex for young people aged in their late teens to mid-20s who were in need of support.

Meeting

A public meeting attended by more than 60 residents was held earlier this month, prompting calls for a more appropriate use of the site.

Walsall Council owns some of the land and regeneration boss Adrian Andrew said he would be suggesting to the decision-making cabinet that the site should be for "traditional" housing.

No formal applications were submitted but the news has been welcomed within the community.

Ward councillor Pete Smith said that a mature and elderly population felt the complex for youngsters wasn't the right type of use.

In principle, they preferred a housing development, he added.

Tenant gets the bill for damage

A MAN who repeatedly kicked the front door of his council home in Walsall after being asked to move out for refurbishment work to take place has been presented with a £150 bill.

Terry Selvey, aged 35, damaged the front door and frame at supported housing accommodation Dolphin House, in Dolphin Close, Gosport, after returning to pick up his belongings, Walsall Magistrates Court was told.

He admitted criminal damage after the offence on February 12.

Selvey, now of Mersey Road, Blakenall, was given a six-month conditional discharge. He was ordered to pay £50 compensation to Walsall Council, £85 costs and £15 victim's surcharge for the victim.

More car parking spaces provided

A TOTAL of 50 new parking spaces will be created in a move to alleviate the problem of cars clogging up streets in The Butts, a Walsall neighbourhood.

It is hoped the creation of new spaces will help tackle long-running parking problems on some streets in The Butts.

Walsall Housing Group has been given permission to create parking at Austin House, a 16-storey block of flats in Upper Forster Street. Ground surrounding the WHG-owned tower block will be resurfaced to create 33 spaces.

A further 17 car parking spaces on Upper Forster Street and Butts Street, which are both close to Walsall town centre, will also be created.

The move has been welcomed by Councillor Mohammed Arif, representative for St Matthew's ward, who said the flats had only nine parking spaces for more than 60 residents.

Essential

"These spaces are absolutely essential for people living in the area and will be welcomed with more than open arms," he said.

"Hopefully this will alleviate the long running problems of town centre parking, people leaving their cars in those streets and walking into the town centre."

Councillor Arif said people had been campaigning for better parking facilities in The Butts for several years and had held numerous public meetings.

He added: "There is still a lot more to be done to try and tackle parking issues in the area."

Planning officers who approved the scheme under delegated powers said it would enhance the area.

David Elsworth, Walsall's head of planning, said: "The provision of further off-street car parking for local residents outside Austin House is welcomed and will improve highway safety by removing vehicles from the main highway and alleviate existing parking issues."

Store staff to look for dementia signs

SUPERMARKET staff in Walsall are being trained to spot and help shoppers with dementia, as part of a pilot scheme.

Walsall has been chosen as one of a handful of towns to take part in a Government scheme to create "dementia-friendly communities".

Asda St Matthews, in George Street, is the first business in the borough to sign up to support people suffering from the condition. Banks, post offices, libraries, cafés, hairdressers and other companies that deal with the public face-to-face are now being urged to follow suit.

Recent figures revealed thousands of dementia sufferers across the Midlands may not yet be diagnosed with the condition, including more than 2,000 in Walsall alone.

Businesses which sign up are given skills to recognise and to help make the lives of dementia sufferers easier.

Funded

The project will run until March 2014 and is being funded by Walsall Council and Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group. Accord Group's Pathways 4 Life and the Alzheimer's Society are delivering the scheme.

Nicole Beeching, health and well-being manager at the Accord Group, said: "Sometimes just the simplest changes, such as how staff communicate, can vastly improve a person with dementia's day-to-day life."

The idea was mooted in April last year when chairman of Walsall Council's health committee called on larger supermarkets to be asked to spot customers showing signs of dementia.

It is hoped by 2015 up to 20 towns, villages and cities will be signed up to the drive. Businesses keen to help can call 01922 602484.



Targeting £1,000 – Shannon Mundy, Tom Reid and Amy Penzer, from entertainers Don't Stop Believing, get set for the charity night at the Village Hotel

Charity night in friend's honour

A NIGHT of fine food and music is being organised in memory of a woman who died from cancer.

Disco and dinner will be on the menu at the Village Urban Resort Hotel in Tempus Drive, Walsall, in tribute to Coven woman Vanessa Penzer. She died of liver cancer last year, aged 48.

The event will raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care on Saturday, April 6, at 7pm. Group Don't Stop Believing will entertain the audience as they aim to raise £1,000 for the charity.

Event organiser Rick Marchelewski, 30, of Wolverhampton, said: "It promises to be a fantastic night. There will be a Champagne reception, two-course dinner, bingo, game show and the best of British music."

"Vanessa was a dear friend of mine and I saw at first hand the amazing work of the Macmillan nurses. I have always been a performer and stopped when I got older. But Vanessa told me to give it one last go and so this show is for her."

Tickets cost £20 and can be purchased from the Village Hotel by calling 08712224610.

Hoard has new home

A NEW gallery to house hundreds of artefacts from the Staffordshire Hoard, found near Brownhills, will open by September 2014 in Birmingham.

The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) has secured more than £700,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the project. Bosses say the permanent gallery will open in 18 months time.

Councillor Philip Atkins, leader of Staffordshire County Council, said the cash injection was a "major coup" for everyone in the Midlands. He added: "The main thing is to enable people to see the wonders of the Staffordshire Hoard. Anything that shows it off in its full splendour has got to be a good thing."

Around 300 of the Anglo Saxon artefacts will be housed at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

The hoard was discovered in a field on the outskirts of Walsall borough in 2009.

NEWS in brief

Pupils will learn life-saving skills

SCHOOLS have been signing up to a new health programme backed by Walsall Manor Hospital.

The 'Heartstart' initiative teaches pupils simple skills that can help to save lives. The programme includes learning skills such as assessing an unconscious patient, performing CPR, dealing with choking, or someone having a heart attack.

Youngsters of ten years and over can attend a Heartstart course. The Resuscitation Council (UK) and British Heart Foundation (BHF) have launched the campaign.

Search is on for carnival royalty

A SEARCH is on for the new Pelsall carnival queen and princess.

Pelsall Carnival Committee has launched a competition on April 28, 1.15pm, in Pelsall Community Centre.

Winners will be expected to take part in the carnival procession on July 6. Only girls living in Pelsall can enter the rosebud and princess contests. Prizes are up for grabs. Call Ian Rhydderch on 01922 684695.

Fun day to help Air Ambulance

A PUB in Walsall will hold a charity fun day to raise money in memory of a motorcyclist.

The Sneyd, in Vernon Way, Bloxwich, will host the fundraiser on Saturday to raise money for Midlands Air Ambulance.

It is in memory of Ryan Husted, who died after his motorbike was involved in a collision. There will be children's activities and a barbecue from noon onwards.

Mayor will open town beer festival

THE Mayor of Walsall will officially open the town's beer festival on April 4.

Councillor Dennis Anson will perform the honours for Walsall Beer Festival, at Walsall Town Hall at 6pm. It will run to April 6 and feature 100 beers. Admission is £3.

Coffee morning is on school agenda

A CHARITY coffee morning will be held at Lodge Farm JMI School, in Furzebank Way, Willenhall today (Thursday) from 9am to raise money for the Mouth Cancer Foundation.

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NEWS

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

GREAT to see that modern-day political philosopher Katie Price striking a blow for Middle England.

Springing to the defence of the housing association which advised its tenants to cut back on non-essential spending, the artist formerly known as Jordan used her newspaper column to launch a broadside against some of the people who fail to live up to her admittedly high standards.

"I've noticed a lot of people who haven't got jobs but they seem to find money to buy fags, drink alcohol and smoke spliffs," she declared, in almost Churchillian tones.

"They've also got more gadgets than a PC World warehouse. Why? Because you and me – the hardworking men and women of Britain – do not spend our days going on the Jeremy Kyle show."

"We get up early and come home late, slogging our guts out to pay for THEIR luxuries."

Hear, hear, Katie, you've hit the nail on the head. Now remind me. What was it you used to do for a living?

□□□□□□

VAN driver: "Is there a B & Q in Wednesbury?"

Black Country mon: "Dunno, but there's two 'T's in Tipton'."

□□□□□□

LET'S get this right. The reason Sebastian Vettel had a face like a wet weekend as he stood on the podium after the Malaysian Grand Prix was because he won.

Offering the sort of expression of regret which even Nick Clegg would think twice about, the German Formula One star said after the race: "I messed up today. I apologise for that. I am the black sheep."

Apparently, he was not supposed to win, but should have left first place to his team-mate Mark Webber, due to some complicated rule that would have meant the team would have got more points if Webber had won.

Now imagine if those principles were translated into another sport. Could you imagine Mo Farrah taking a breather in the middle of the 10,000 metres, because it was Christopher Thompson's turn for a medal?

Or a footballer booting a penalty into the crowd because both sides had agreed to stage the 0-0 draw that would guarantee them safety from relegation?

There is no doubt that given the rules of Formula One, the gentlemanly thing would have been for Vettel to have held his place and let his team-mate take the glory.

But to those of us who find the idea of watching a lot of funny-looking cars running round a track about as much fun as a police motorway video, the events of the weekend have done nothing to dissuade us from our view. That motor racing is a very strange sport indeed.

□□□□□□

EAMONN Holmes on Sky News last week: "Today we have a yellow snow alert."

No, he didn't mean that.



The unconventional People's Orchestra, encouraging people with a love of music to pass on their skills to others, is celebrating a year of success

Milestone show for People's Orchestra

PETER MADELEY watches a spectacular performance by The People's Orchestra at The Public arts centre

AN unconventional orchestra celebrated its first anniversary on Sunday with a spectacular hometown performance at The Public in West Bromwich.

The concert featured amateur and professional musicians of various ages decked out in brightly coloured T-shirts, performing traditional orchestral pieces, sports themes and film scores.

Add to the mix a guest appearance from former England international footballer Dion Dublin, playing an instrument he invented, and The People's Orchestra was anything but your average musical ensemble.

Principal conductor Chris Rawley explained: "We want to show people that an orchestra can be flexible and not be constrained having to play traditional classical material."

"People will recognise a lot of the pieces we play from film or television, but it is rare that anyone gets the chance to see it performed live."

Accomplish

The repertoire includes Keith Mansfield's Light and Tuneful, better known as the intro music to the BBC's Wimbledon tennis coverage, and Zimmer and Badelt's film score for Pirates of the Caribbean.

One of the high points is Aaron Copland's Hoe-Down, which the orchestra performs while a three-and-a-half minute film plays in the background.

The idea is for the orchestra to finish at the same time as the film, a feat they accomplished to the second.

Mr Rawley said: "We were about one and a half minutes out during rehearsals, but we got there tonight!"

The orchestra also has a policy of not



Revitalised – Jacqueline Burke on the flute



Dion Dublin, percussionist

turning away players who successfully audition, meaning songs are sometimes rewritten to suit the orchestra.

Mr Rawley said: "A typical orchestra will have two flute players, whereas we currently have six."

"It is unusual for an orchestra to have more flute players than violins but if people are good enough we won't reject them."

"We will adapt the music to suit the players we have available."

"It is not a case of us accepting anyone, as the standard is high, but we want to encourage as many talented people as possible to join the orchestra."

The People's Orchestra was launched in March 2012 to plug the gap between

local authority music provision and professional orchestras.

Sarah Marshall, co-founder and managing director of the orchestra, said: "So many musicians stop playing after they finish school or university due to a lack of opportunities."

"We want them to keep on playing so they can enjoy the music and hopefully pass on their skills to a new generation."

This was the case with one of the orchestra's most recent recruits, 45-year-old Jacqueline Burke, of Darlaston, who started playing the flute as a 11-year-old at Wood Green School, Darlaston, but found the opportunities to play diminished over the years.

She said: "After I finished school I

knew I was not good enough to join a professional orchestra, but I still wanted to carry on playing. I joined the West Midlands Fire Service Band when I was 17, but after that there were no options and I started to feel really frustrated."

She was on the verge of giving up when she saw an advert calling for players to try out for The People's Orchestra.

Following a successful audition in February, Mrs Burke, a checkout assistant in Asda in Darlaston, was looking forward to making her debut on Sunday night.

"Joining The People's Orchestra has been a real breath of fresh air. It's revitalised my love of playing the flute."

The orchestra is self-funded, with musicians paying a £35 joining fee followed by £35 per month to pay for classes and concerts and weekly rehearsals.

Although originally an Arts Council community project, the venture has become a registered charity.

Experience

Ms Marshall said: "Our aim is to get people and businesses to sponsor us so we can fund musicians who are not able to afford the fees."

Guest percussionist, footballer Dion Dublin, played an instrument he invented called The Dube. He said performing with the orchestra was a far more testing experience than leading the line for Aston Villa.

"Playing football was second nature to me, so this was definitely a more nerve wracking experience. It was the first time I have performed with an orchestra, and with my musical background being in latin and jazz I had never played any of these songs before either. It was a fantastic experience."

One impressed audience member was James Morris, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, and patron of the orchestra. He said: "It is great to see more people getting involved in the project and I hope we can build on this success."

For information on the orchestra, see www.thepeoplesorchestra.com, or e-mail to music@thepeoplesorchestra.com

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

AN action plan was launched to tidy up the derelict Birmingham-Wolverhampton railway line, dubbed 'the worst view from a train window in Britain'. Image-conscious West Midlands county council planners want to get rid of spoil heaps and derelict factories.

A FIREMAN saved the life of a 16-year-old girl by catching her as she plummeted to the ground after jumping off a narrow ledge. David Drury caught the teenager after she climbed onto the ledge 30ft up, but lost her grip.

BALLET students in Bilston set a record for the school's highest set of exam results. More than 75 per cent of pupils at the Roma Weekes School of Dance scored at least 80 out of a possible 100, with almost half being awarded honours.

1993...

A FAREWELL reception was held for a leading Wolverhampton clergyman as he took a new appointment. The Right Reverend Christopher Mayfield was the town's Bishop for eight years and was inducted to be the Bishop of Manchester.

DINNER lady Jean Parker signed off after 24 years on playground patrol at a Sedgley school. She supervised meals and play times for two generations, including her own four children.

NEARLY 1,000 people formed a human chain to celebrate the opening of nature trail for the disabled at Walsall special school. The path was carved out by Walsall's TA unit to provide access for wheelchair-bound and handicapped youngsters. Children, parents and teachers joined hands at a giant opening party at Three Crowns School.

2003...

ONE of the Black Country's oldest off-licences called last orders after more than a century of trading. The Wine Keg in Brook Street, Gornal Wood, known locally as The Kitchen, closed due to the retirement of proprietors Jim and Janet Cartwright.

FEATHERS were flying in Shipley after a relaxation-loving parrot was snatched from his garden centre home. Jarvis, an 18-month old Jardine parrot, was stolen from under the noses of staff at Gardenland, Bridgnorth Road.

SPRING fever swept across the West Midlands as sun-worshippers basked in the brightest March on record. Temperatures of around 15C became the norm as the region saw over three weeks without a single drop of rain.

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LETTERS

Better interchange vital for bus users

LOCAL bus users will be delighted with the news that Centro and Walsall Council have listened to local users and are developing plans to improve information, waiting areas, road crossings and signage at the very busy and vital bus interchange.

Many people make use of public transport and the links provided to work, shops, colleges and places of entertainment. Darlaston has been a key interchange for years and local people and bus users deserve the best services and facilities. Not least because they use public transport, which has important economic and environmental benefits.

Improving and providing safe road

crossings and access to the bus stops is an important part of the proposals. People with mobility problems, young families and local shoppers would all benefit from safer, modernised crossing provision. Bus users would also appreciate information and signage on access to toilet facilities with people tending to use facilities at the ASDA.

A campaign to improve local bus services will continue to focus on the re-establishment of a revised 333 route and the provision of eco friendly buses across routes from Darlaston.

Members of the local Public Transport Group coordinated by me will be reconvening after Easter to organise further activities or campaigns to

promote local Services and facilities improvements.

Further meetings with Centro, National Express, private providers and the council are being organised to enable wider consultations over public transport plans which will encourage the increased safe use. Darlaston Interchange is a vital gateway to the town and will continue to play a key role in bringing local people into the local shops and events at the Town Hall. An improved Darlaston Bus Interchange is at the heart of our vibrant town.

COUNCILLOR DOUG JAMES
Horton Street, Walsall

Stop town turning into a ghost centre

LOCAL councils strapped for cash are only too willing to encourage supermarkets because they can include a regeneration project into the planning consent, and who can blame them?

But the consequences of their action on the old town such as Willenhall and businesses can be devastating.

The first thing councils seem to want to do is pave over main streets and thoroughfares, which might benefit pedestrians but it does nothing to help the small shops, most of which are now closing because they relied on passing traffic.

Worst hit are small towns where just one of these superstores can cause a virtual ghost town and we need look no further afield than Darlaston for an example, without its food store it would struggle to exist.

We have to decide before it's too late how many of our old towns or at least how much of them and their

many small town shops and businesses we want to save, and make plans to protect them. The obvious plan should be not to pave over main streets and thoroughfares and restrict parking when passing traffic is their main source of business.

In the past couple of weeks applicants are proposing to turn two of Lane Head's pubs, the Brown Jug and the British Oak, only 200 yards apart, into convenience stores, or shops.

If either is allowed it will be detrimental to the town centre shops and market, which are only one mile away and are struggling in the wake of superstores.

What was once a thriving little market town is becoming devoid of its variety and people who used to come from far and wide are starting to pass by. Unless something changes pretty quickly it will end up like Darlaston.

JOHN STANHOPE
High Road, Willenhall

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Council spending waste of cash

AS Walsall Council has so much money to waste perhaps it should try spending it on a proper bus shelter at the Saddlers Bus Station instead of the open air freezer that exists there at present. How much did that waste of space cost? Considering the very cold winter we have had and continue to have it is a complete joke. Now a sculpture for the Kings Hill Park, are they serious! It will be vandalised in five minutes flat. Stop wasting money on these white elephants. Try cleaning up Darlaston just down the road, there is litter and dog mess everywhere. Also the patch of waste ground in Bradford Street opposite Latifis is a rubbish tip and growing in size every day. Whatever happened to street cleaners?

M LLOYD, Foley Street, Wednesbury

Learning through reading fun

CONGRATULATIONS to the pupils of Woodlands Academy of Learning for their excellent Book Week. The enthusiasm and sheer enjoyment of what they were doing was obvious. As well as a great deal of well-structured learning they were having fun! Such an event cannot take place without a great deal of hard work and dedication from staff.

R G BUTT (Chair of Governors)
Buckingham Drive, Willenhall

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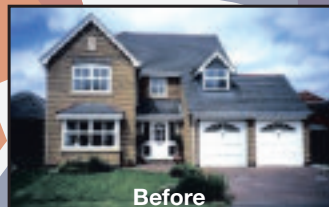
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Shaun Simmons tucks into a pile of scratchings

THEY have been making pork scratchings for more than 40 years. And now, G Simmons & Sons in Walsall has been showcased on national TV.

The firm were appearing yesterday (Wednesday) on Ade in Britain, where comedian Ade Edmondson explores England's best-loved homemade foods. The company, in Newfield Close, is no stranger to TV having already featured on BBC One's The One Show.

Filming took place in June and sent waves of excitement around the industrial estate off Green Lane where the company is based.

Pictures

Shaun Simmons, aged 46, who runs the company with his father Graham, 69, and 44-year-old brother Mark, said it had been an enjoyable experience. "Ade Edmondson was really good, really down to earth and very approachable," he said.



TV's Ade Edmondson, centre, poses for pictures

All the people from the units around us came out to have a look too and he signed autographs for them and posed for pictures."

G Simmons & Sons have been making pork scratchings for more than 40 years. For the past 18 years, they have been manufacturing the popular snack from the unit in Walsall after moving from Lower Lichfield Street in Willenhall.

Nine of the company's 21 workers are part of the Simmons family.

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NEWS

Inspectors praise college success



First of a kind – delighted Walsall College principal and chief executive Jatinder Sharma celebrates the “Outstanding” rating given by inspectors Ofsted with students, staff and governors outside the college

WALSALL College has become the first of its kind in the country to be awarded an “Outstanding” grade from Ofsted under tough new inspection rules.

Inspectors praised success rates achieved by students, which put the college in the top 10 per cent in the UK. They were also full of praise for its teaching and learning methods.

Jatinder Sharma, principal and chief executive at the college, said: “We are incredibly proud of this achievement and delighted that Ofsted has recognised the college as one

of the best in the country for outstanding teaching and learning.

“This would not have been possible without the dedication shown by all staff and governors at the college.

“We have also worked hard to develop strategies to create an inclusive environment that promotes equality and diversity, and this was again highly praised by the inspectors.”

Walsall North MP David Winnick said: “Walsall and the wider Black Country certainly benefits from having such a college.”

Indoor market proposed

AN INDOOR market is to be launched at Darlaston Town Hall in a bid to boost business in the town.

Four dates are being lined up for the event, which organisers hope will bring more visitors to the town centre.

Darlaston's historic outdoor market in King Street was axed in 2011 in a bid to save £60,000. But now traders and shopkeepers have been in talks over taking part in an indoor market, with dates to be revealed after Easter.

It is believed some of those who used to have stalls at the long-established

street market have been in talks about returning as part of the plan.

Councillor Doug James, representative for Darlaston South, said: “At the moment we are costing plans for an indoor market in Darlaston.

Crafts

“We will be booking the hall at Darlaston Town Hall for four markets and we're going to theme those around things such as arts and crafts and local shops. It will focus on smaller companies and will give business in the town a boost.”

He said orchestras and music groups

from around the town could be booked to provide entertainment during the markets. Final details are still being drawn up.

Councillor James added: “We're really pleased that the night market is happening again in Walsall but it would be nice to see something like that happen in Darlaston.”

He said the first four events would be monitored to evaluate their success before a decision was made on whether it would become a fixture.

It is hoped the indoor market would also help boost the flagging fortunes of Darlaston Town Hall, in Victoria Road.

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NEWS

Residents take dim view over new street lighting

COMPLAINTS have been made over new street lighting in Walsall being too dim.

Hundreds of lights were being replaced across Leamore and parts of Bloxwich as part of a £250,000 scheme.

But some residents fear the lights are not bright enough and could lead to increased trouble and anti-social behaviour behaviour.

More than 590 old-style sodium orange lights were replaced with LED lights last March. They are said to use less electricity and give out a better light.

Councillor Pete Smith, who represents Blakenall, said he had received complaints from people in Webster Road and Goscoe Place over the lack of light from the lamps.

"It is claimed the new lighting is very dim indeed and much worse than the lighting that has been replaced," he said.

"It follows a similar complaint a few days ago about very dim street lights in Goscoe Place."

Sorry

He called on Walsall Council, which employs Amey to manage its street lights, to look into them.

Council chiefs said a survey carried out after the first wave of new lights showed the majority of residents were pleased with them.

Councillor Tom Ansell, environment boss, said: "We're sorry to hear that people are unhappy with the new lights, particularly as it was the many positive comments from residents involved in the first phase of this work that have helped us refine the design for this second phase."

"For stage one of this £250,000 project we staged a survey before the lights were installed to see what people thought about what they already had."

Dates for festivals fixed

THIS year's Caldmore Village Festival will be held in Palfrey Park from May 25 to 27. There will be bands, dancers, food and displays. Walsall Mela is on July 7. Last year it attracted 9,000 people

Poetry pleases pupils



Poetic youngsters celebrate publication of their rhyming passages

PUPILS at a school in Walsall have been putting pen to paper and writing poems that have made their way into a new book.

Around 40 youngsters from King Charles Primary took part in the Young Writers poetry contest.

And 26 of them saw their rhyming passages make it into the published copy of the Sense Poetry book.

Key Stage one co-ordinator Bella Favata, who helped the children,

said: "The children loved taking part in the competition and loved the fact that their poems made it into the book. 'I'm very proud of what they have achieved.'"

The children spent a week coming up with an idea for their poems and then writing them in class.

The theme was 'the woods' and the youngsters were taken into the grounds of the Wilkes Avenue school for inspiration.

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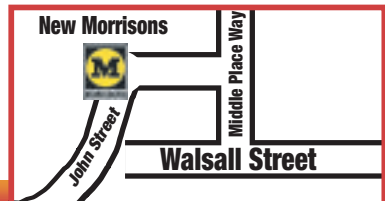
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NEWS

Sizzling success



Bacon producers Steve Hinds and Christopher Cox receive their Best Bacon award from Fay Ripley

BOSSES of a Walsall bacon business are celebrating their latest win at a national industry awards ceremony.

To celebrate Britain's love of rashers, retailers, butchers, and pork experts from across the UK gathered at the Bacon Connoisseurs' Week Great Bacon Revolution Awards in London to decide who produces the UK's best bacon.

With more than 300 entrants the competition was tough but the Midlands Bacon company, based on Leamore Lane, Walsall, claimed one of the top spots with their Wiltshire Cured Back Bacon flavoured with Sweet Chilli. It wowed the judges with its intense flavour.

TV presenter and cookery writer Fay Ripley presented the award to the company's directors Christopher Cox and Steve Hind.

She said: "I love cooking with bacon as it is such a versatile ingredient. It is far more than a breakfast favourite."

Company Director, Steve Hind said: "It's a fantastic result and it's nice to have our hard work recognised."

Being funny for money

STUDENTS in Walsall switched their school uniforms for fancy dress to raise funds for Comic Relief. Pupils at Shire Oak Academy in Walsall Wood raised £458 through a sixth form fancy dress and non-uniform day. Further donations were given from other classes at the school.

Concern at proposal to create more heathland

MORE heathland is set to be created at Brownhills Common, sparking fears it could drive deer away. Plans have been unveiled to increase heathland from 36 to 60 per cent.

It has prompted concern from residents over loss of woodland. They claim deer currently hide among the trees and creating more heathland could mean they move on.

Walsall Council has teamed up with Natural England to increase heathland at the common, which has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

by Catherine Dalton

Petition

They insist no mature native trees will be chopped down and say existing woodland will be reduced by less than half.

Barrie Poxon, vice chairman of the Local Brownhills Committee, said a petition was being started against the proposals.

"We want to see it stay as it is," said the 72-year-old. "For a start off the deer will disappear. The common is well-used by families and people out walking their dogs and the deer tend to hide behind the trees."

"We're very proud to have

deer in Brownhills. Also with heathland, you won't be able to see the changes of the season like you can with trees."

Around 30 acres of Brownhills Common is heathland with the rest woodland, grassland, scrub and paths.

Walsall leisure chief Anthony Harris said the borough should count itself lucky to have lowland heathland, considered a "rare and threatened habitat".

"By increasing the area of heathland, it provides an opportunity for people to catch sight of rare plants and animals which thrive in this environment on their doorstep and will also potentially attract large numbers of people from further afield to visit Walsall," he said.

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NEWS**Relatives turn up for official pioneering academy opening**

CHILDREN, parents and staff joined Schools Commissioner Dr Elizabeth Sidwell to celebrate the official opening of a pioneering Walsall academy.

Pupils from the Charles Caddy Walker Academy choir sang as Dr Sidwell, accompanied by headteacher Mark Smith, unveiled the academy plaque at the ceremony last Thursday.

The academy, formerly North Walsall Primary School, is sponsored by the Erudition Schools Trust, which is partnering with online education experts K12 to offer children a unique and modern way of learning.

Dr Sidwell viewed facilities, spoke to staff and pupils about the K12 curriculum and observed lessons to see how the academy uses the latest educational tools to teach science and maths.

Commenting via her twitter account, she said: "It was lovely to meet so many children who are very proud of their learning and their school."

Mr Smith said: "The partnership with the Erudition Schools Trust will allow us to offer all our pupils a cutting edge approach to education in the 21st century. Working with the trust, we are looking to maximise the opportunities for all of our pupils to provide them with the skills and knowledge to allow them to succeed."

The academy, which opened in January, is



Schools Commissioner Dr Elizabeth Sidwell, centre, opens the Charles Caddy Walker Academy with head Mark Smith and Karen McKay, managing director of the Erudition Schools Trust

named after Charles Caddy Walker, a former councillor for Leamore and twice mayor of Walsall. Following an appeal from Mr Smith, five of his relatives, including his great-great-nephew, David Kelly, of Bloxwich, attended the opening.

All received a framed photograph of Charles Caddy Walker as a memento of the day.

The academy is the first Erudition Schools Trust academy in the UK to be approved by the Department for Education. Karen Mackay, man-

aging director of the trust, said: "Our innovative approach allows parents to follow exactly what their child is learning and how they are progressing on a day-to-day basis, giving them more involvement in their child's learning and progress."

The trust proposes to establish a series of academies and free schools across the UK, to help children for whom traditional education has either not worked or is not the best option.

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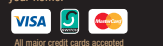
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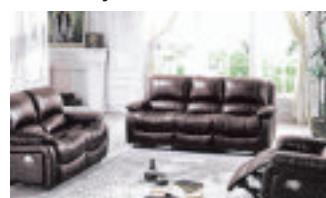
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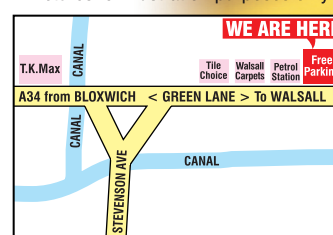
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NEWS

Jobless get creative in virtual and real world

AN ORGANISATION specialising in the virtual world of interactive digital media is giving jobless young people the opportunity to develop careers in the real world.

They are being given training in computer games programming and design as well as many other creative sectors including art, video and music by social enterprise the Learnplay Foundation.

The foundation, based at The Public in West Bromwich, has more than 200 employees, around 50 of which are young apprentices from Birmingham and the Black Country.

It works alongside organisations that are dedicated to helping young jobseekers, including Pertemps People Development Group, The Prince's Trust and Walsall Police, whilst providing support for youth and community groups, schools and charities.

Four new recruits are embarking on apprenticeships having started at Learnplay after gaining support from employment and training specialists PPDG, delivering the Government's Work Programme in the Black Country.

Phil Eley, aged 18, from

by John Corser

Smethwick, trained as a painter and decorator but is now enjoying adapting to a career in the creative arts after securing one of the apprenticeship positions.

"The work here is very varied," he said. "I've been getting involved in practical arts, making props for theatre scenes including a detailed ship scene on a backdrop for the Bayard's Colts project in Walsall. I'm really enjoying the challenge."

Luke Levi, 19, from Wolverhampton, was also introduced to the Learnplay Foundation by coach Ranjit Sohal.

"I've been creating music for some of the videos Learnplay produce which has given me more of a valuable insight into how the industry operates," he said.

On the run for charity



Keep on running - boss of Walsall's Metafin Paul Bundy

THE boss of a Walsall firm has been putting his best foot forward to show raise money for a leukaemia charity after a former colleague was diagnosed with the illness.

Paul Bundy, managing director of family run Walsall manufacturing company Metafin, has already completed the Staffordshire half marathon and aims to run another the Edinburgh marathon on May 26 and the BUPA Great Birmingham Run on October 20, to show his support for Tony De Grey, who was diagnosed with leukaemia last year.

Paul said: "Finding out Tony had leukaemia was a terrible shock and straight away I wanted to do something to help. Three runs in one year is a big commitment but I'm up for the challenge."

Target

"I hope that from doing this I can raise vital funds for Cure Leukaemia to help save the lives of people like Tony." Paul will have run a total of 52.4 miles as he aims to reach his fundraising target of £2,500 for Birmingham-based charity Cure Leukaemia, which funds research and new drug trials for Midlands patients.

James McLaughlin, CEO of Cure Leukaemia, said: "We hope that people will get behind Paul to help support Tony and others like him suffering with leukaemia."

Follow Paul's progress on Twitter at @paul_bundy or donate at www.justgiving.com/Paul-Bundy1

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NEWS

Parcel firm hoping to deliver on opening vow



The impressive-looking new APC depot at Kingswood Lakeside, Cannock



Chief Executive Syed Ziaullah inside the new purpose-built APC warehouse

BOSSSES say a new £15million headquarters for a next-day delivery firm will be up and running within months.

The finishing touches are currently being made to the huge national sorting centre for APC Overnight which is being built in Cannock at the Kingswood Lakeside Business Park.

The building will cover 138,000sq ft and will allow the firm to handle 36 million items a year. The firm will move from its current base on Warstone Road, Essington.

Chief executive Syed Ziaullah said the company could be operating in the new building by the end of May. He said: "It is the first time the business has been in a position where it can have a bespoke building built for us. It is one massive milestone for the company. It will significantly improve our business."

Sympathetic

The transformation of the former opencast coal mine site will allow the firm to double its capacity from handling 1.5 million items a month to three million.

Mr Ziaullah added: "The building looks very impressive from most angles and there will be a lot of landscaping done so we can remain sympathetic to the area. We are extremely pleased and proud with what we have achieved."

APC Overnight is the UK's largest independent next day parcel delivery firm with pre-tax profits of £4.42m in 2011/2012, a rise of 30.4 per cent on the previous year.

Engineers Rodgers Leask helped to deliver the new premises. Director Paul Spencer said: "We are proud to have worked on APC's impressive new hub in Cannock."

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NEWS

Little characters celebrate book day



Youngsters at Butts Primary School get dressed up as their favourite characters to celebrate World Book Day

PRINCESSES, fairies, vampires and pirates roamed the corridors of a Walsall school as pupils celebrated World Book Day.

Pupils from Butts Primary School, in Walsall, dressed up as their favourite characters to mark the annual event.

And they raised the bumper sum of £120 for Book Aid, which sends books to children in Africa.

Youngsters were inspired thanks to a special link-up Butts Primary School has with a primary school in Kenya.

Children were each asked to pay a £1 in return for wearing their costumes, with pupils from nursery up to Year 6 taking part. Anne Williams, head of literacy, said: "The children really enjoyed it and it certainly captured their imaginations."

Governor consults family firm

BANK of England Governor Sir Mervyn King was given a first hand view of the difficulties facing the construction industry when he visited Walsall-based contractors Shaylor Group.

As one of the regional contacts of the Bank of England, Shaylor was selected to sit down with the Governor to give first hand feedback regarding the construction climate.

Sir Mervyn visited Shaylor Group's Aldridge offices accompanied by members of the West Midlands Agency as part of a two-day tour of the West Midlands, his third annual tour of the region.

Sir Mervyn met employees and discussed their perspectives on the current condition of

the construction industry. He was then joined by members of the Shaylor board of directors in a roundtable discussion on how the economic conditions are affecting the business.

Shaylor Group chief executive Stephen Shaylor said: "Our visit from Sir Mervyn King has been a valuable experience for all of us at Shaylor Group."

Views

"It was great to see the Governor taking an interest in a medium-sized family run business such as ours and the construction industry as a whole. We enjoyed a fruitful discussion and a positive exchange of views."

Shaylor Group was formed in 1969 and is £50m second generation family-owned business with offices in Aldridge, Birmingham, central London and the South West.



Mervyn King, left, with Shaylor Group CEO Stephen Shaylor

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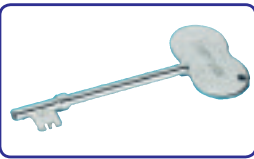
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CLUB NEWS

Looking
back on
busy year

BROWNHILLS TOWNSWOMEN

BROWNHILLS Townswomen held their AGM on March 11 which provided the perfect opportunity to wrap up an exciting year and also look ahead at some exciting new prospects.

The year of 2012/13 saw an exciting year for the guild as it celebrated its own 65th birthday as well as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. In the federation quiz, the guild came a healthy fifth, they had a Christmas tea, attended federation dinners, had interesting speakers, gave out long service badges for 40 and 25 year memberships, held a fashion show and raffles, contributed to the Brownhills Canal Rally raising £245 for the Queen Elizabeth Cyberknife appeal and had some excellent trips. The guild also enjoyed cheese and wine evenings, monthly recipe tasters and afternoon teas...all in one year!

During the March meeting, members brought unwanted Christmas gifts for an auction, raising £77.75 for Guild funds.

Future trips and events were also discussed including visits to the home of Downton Abbey - Highclere Castle and the Houses of Parliament. A fashion show raised £706.18 with hopes of another one soon.

Meetings are on the second Monday of each month in the Lichfield Suite of Brownhills Memorial Hall.

Founder members celebrate 25 years



Chairman and secretary of Bloxwich Ladies Probud Club, Mary Wall gets ready to cut the cake in celebration of the group's 25th anniversary

TWENTY five years of friendship and fun were celebrated as Bloxwich Ladies Probud Club marked its silver anniversary.

The club first met on March 2, 1988. Its formation was the brainchild of the late Alf Cox, a member of the town's men's Probud club. His widow Joyce is still a member of the ladies club. Eight founder members, some of whom are in their late 80s and early 90s, still attend.

Chairman Mary Wall said it was a flourishing organisation. "We have some really

BLOXWICH LADIES PROBUD CLUB

nice ladies," said the 71-year-old. Twice monthly meetings are held at St Peter's Church hall, in High Street, Bloxwich.

Six of its founder members were at the celebration meeting - Joyce Cox, Lily Smithyman, Dorothy Sharratt, Olga Leadbetter, Doreen Rathbone and Dorothy Jones.

Federation quiz invitation

THE West Midlands Federation of Townswomen's Guilds are holding their annual quiz on Monday June 3 at Stourbridge Football Club from 7pm.

All guilds within the West Midlands Federation are invited to enter the quiz. Teams consisting of four

WEST MIDLANDS FEDERATION

guild members may enter. This event has been organised by Jean Williams.

The next event will be the National AGM being held in Harrogate on June 12 The

guest speakers will be announced at a later date.

Most guilds within the Federation area are recruiting for new members. Anyone interested is asked to ring Federation secretary Hazel Butt on 01299 250957 for any information about guilds in your locality.

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NEWS

Club touches down with a series of celebrations



Burntwood Rugby Club is preparing to celebrate its 40th anniversary with a series of special events

BURNTWOOD Rugby Club is soaring high as it prepares to mark its 40th anniversary with a raft of special celebrations.

The events will kick off with a ladies evening in the main club room on Saturday.

Players' mothers, wives and girlfriends will don their glad rags for the evening of live entertainment and disco dancing.

The men will have their turn at a gentlemen's evening after the club's last match of the season on April 20.

The county's rugby union organisa-

tion will get in on the action when Staffordshire president Mike Procter holds his President's Day at the club-house on May 5.

It will be followed by the club's own President's Day on May 18.

The final whistle will be blown on the series of celebrations at a beer festival in August.

Club secretary Rob Forsyth said the club was proud to have reached the milestone anniversary.

He said: "What started out as just a pub team has evolved into a sustainable rugby club."

"We hope we will be here for another 40 years."

The club was established in 1972, when members met at The Drill Inn, in Springle Styche Lane.

It relocated to various pubs and clubs in the town before moving to its current home in a converted mobile classroom on the North Shore of Chasewater, Church Street in 1995.

A new clubhouse opened in 2002 and was recently extended to include two changing rooms and an entrance hall to an upstairs function room.

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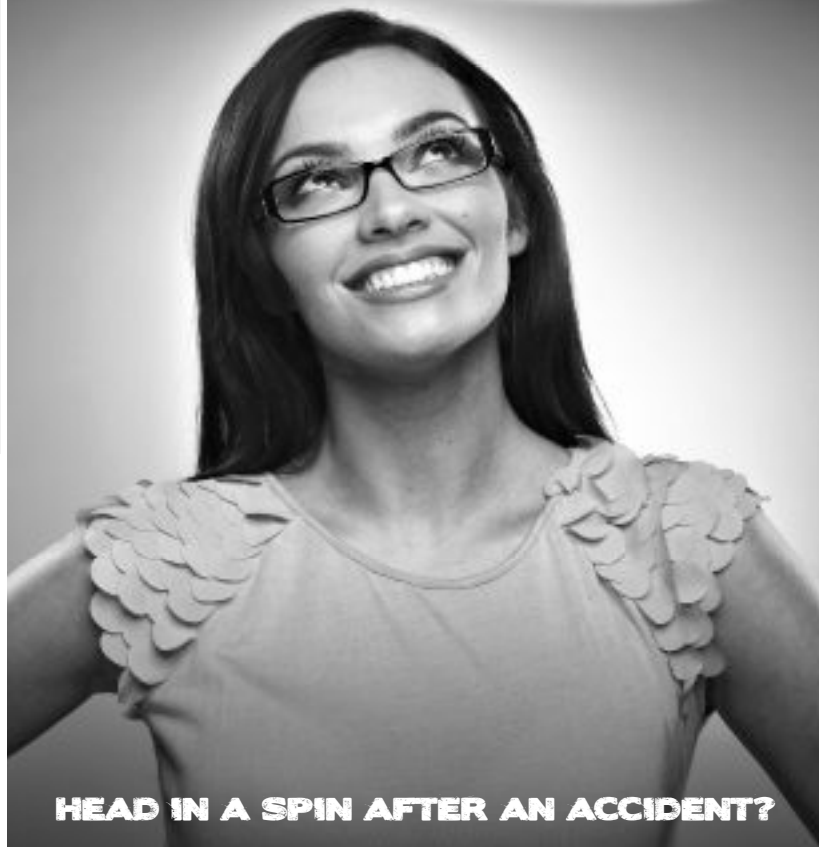


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NEWS

Top talent turn out to their big awards night

TOP singing talent took their moment in the spotlight to celebrated being named among the region's best turns.

Five acts, including a boyband tribute group and a husband and wife duo from Pelsall, claimed gongs at the Mid Counties Entertainment Council's Spotlight Awards.

They played to a sell-out 220-strong crowd at Quarry Bank Labour Club. And everything was alright on the night for the glitzy bash despite last-minute rehearsals, late dashes to make the show on time and final costume drama.

Tracks from Elvis, The Killers, Billy Ocean and Take That were among a plethora of hits from the acts as they all took turns on stage before accepting their awards.

Solo singers Stuart James and Kia were joined by duos ManMaid and Ashley and Janine together with boyband tribute act Could It Be Magic/That's Life to receive gongs.

Builder

Council secretary and night organiser Malcolm Edwards, aged 66, headed the night as a shot in the arm for clubland.

"We have some of the best singers here in the country and this awards show is also here as a representation of all the great artists in this area," said Mr Edwards, a former Round Oak Steelworks worker and builder who lives in Tipton.

First on the bill was professional singer Stuart James, of Bowling Green Drive, Oldbury, who won the top male vocalist honour. The 36-year-old has performed in Spain, America and Dubai. The father-of-two opened his set with Take That's Rule The World.

Husband and wife duo Ashley and



The entertainers, front left, Could it be Magic's Sam Gorman, Lee Aldridge, Phil Richards, Brett Foster and Jay Catalano and, back from left, Man Maid's Sam and Becky Tanner, solo singers Stuart James and Kia and duo Janine and Ashley Jeffery

Janine Jeffery, aged 38 and 34 respectively, perform on the road – juggling family and work life with their three children.

The couple, from Pelsall, have been married 11 years. They won honours for the top duo alongside another act ManMaid aka Sam and Becky Tanner, aged 53 and 37, respectively from Warwickshire.

Solo singer Kia, of Wednesfield, Wolverhampton arrived just minutes

before the show had been due to start after getting stuck in traffic.

But after a quick change she was ready to hit the stage to perform and collect her award as best female vocalist.

Friends Brett Foster, 31, Lee Aldridge, 27, from Aldridge, Sam Gorman, 20, Jay Catalano, 35 and 32-year-old Phil Richards treated the audience to a packed set full of Take That hits.

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Betty is free from pain after having implants

A WOMAN who had suffered years of pain with two jaw conditions has finally found relief after undergoing dental implant surgery.

Betty had worn dentures for many years but developed neuralgia and her trigeminal nerve had become inflamed.

"I had terrible jaw pain and suffered pins and needles in the side of my head and tongue. It's a terrible condition. I'd had an MRI scan and had seen a specialist, but was still without relief," she says.

Clinical dental technician Mr Burchell had made dentures for Betty seven years ago and she returned to his clinic to inquire about a new prescription because the lower denture had lost its stability.

"I had put up with the floating effect of my lower denture and needed to address the problem. My lower gum had receded so much my denture was pressing down on a nerve and causing me pain," she adds.

"Steven explained the benefits of implant-retained dentures and told me it would allow my bite to be opened some more. Since having the implants on my lower denture, I have experienced no more pain."

Mr Burchell said all dentures have a shelf life and Betty's denture problem was due to shrinkage of her gums – a naturally occurring ageing process.

"We hoped for an improved outcome on her condition, but never dreamed that the final clinical result could be so rewarding with Betty being free from pain," he adds.

Transformations

Suction another solution

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley and other clinics in Wolverhampton and Bearwood, says the invention has the potential to resolve issues with the poor stabilisation of dentures.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragms principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Mr Burchell, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The den-

ture revolution is evolving at a pace. In recent times we have seen what I can describe only as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product.

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference.

'Toolbox'

"The beauty of this technology is that it can offer for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work.

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can

present stability problems as the jaw bone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and create painful friction problems on gums.

Mr Burchell adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower palates and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste.

"The Ultra Suction kit increases the options in our clinical 'toolbox' and can provide affordable solutions to many patients who would not wish to pursue the stability resolve with implants.

"I remain passionate about the transformations good prosthetics can achieve."

Typically, patients will be encouraged to contribute their views to treatment plans and generally be assigned more than three-and-a-half clinical hours in achieving the best possible outcome.



Making the transformation and providing a cost-effective solution for upper and lower denture stability, the Ultra Suction prosthetics use a clever diaphragm system to help provide wearers with greater dental security

The Denture Clinic is at 82 Tettenthall Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4TF. Don't suffer any longer – call 01902 539300 for a free consultation
We can also be found at the Fresh Dental practice, 4 St Mary's Road, Bearwood, Birmingham, B67 5DG. Call 01384 348594 to book an appointment

NEWS

Youth Parliament gets 13,000 voters

RECORD numbers of young people in Walsall took part in a vote for members of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. More than 13,000 young people cast their votes in schools, colleges and online to elect the winning candidates to act as their representatives for the coming year.

The new UKYP Members of Youth Parliament (MYP) for Walsall are Omo Agboaye, aged 14, from Barr Beacon Academy and Jade Spruce Powers, 13, from Sheffield Academy. Their deputies will be Jack Brazan, 16, and Lydia McGann, 15, who are both from Willenhall E-Act Academy.

Friendship service starts in care homes



Friendship service – Joan Nock, right, with with resident Maureen Gunning at the Crossways Residential Home

A NEW friendship service will be launched at care homes in Walsall giving residents the chance to chat to volunteers.

The Walsall-based The Vine Trust will provide volunteer visitors who will sit with residents to chat, sing or read books together. They will go into care homes across the borough and listen to the views of residents in a bid to help improve standards.

Richard Jolly, deputy chief executive officer at the trust, said: "Family and friends play an important role in identifying issues but in some cases residents do not have this support network and a volunteer visitor can make all the difference. We spend time with residents, talking to them or taking part in activities, such as reading or singing.

"We build up a relationship so that if there is anything they want to highlight they have that chance.

"We also look for opportunities to ask external organisations to come in and improve the lives of residents."

Volunteer visitors will be visiting homes around two or three times a month under the scheme has been drawn up by Walsall Council's quality assurance team. Brandon Scott-Omenka, quality assurance manager, said: "Volunteer visitors play an important role in this work.

Parklands Court Nursing Home, Bloxwich, Delves Court and Crossways Residential Home, Walsall are also involved. To volunteer, call the trust on 01922 621951.

Swimming star helps pupils to celebrate

YOUNGSTERS across Walsall donned gowns and mortar boards to celebrate their graduation from Walsall Children's University.

Pupils from nine primary schools and two secondary schools took part in the celebration of their achievements outside of school learning activities.

Olympic medalist and former world, European and Commonwealth champion swimmer Nick Gillingham was on hand to add a splash

of excitement to the proceedings. Mr Gillingham, who is chancellor of Walsall Children's University, gave each of the 180 pupils and their families, friends and teachers, a presentation and helped to present certificates and awards to the young graduates.

The ceremony was held at Walsall Town Hall.

The Children's University is a national organisation that provides five to 14-year-olds with learning activities outside school hours.

Pizza plan for empty shop

A FORMER carpet shop may become a pizza delivery firm. An application has gone to Walsall Council to convert the shop in Selmans Parade, Selmans Hill, Bloxwich. It has been empty for about 18 months and is part of a parade of five. The applicant says there are no pizza delivery firms in the immediate area so there is no competition.

"These views have been echoed by several firms of chartered surveyors and commercial letting agents and feel that having another business fully occupational would boost the community and other traders," the application said.

Six parking spaces are available in front of the shop and an electric oven would cook pizzas, removing the need for a noisy extractor fan. If permission is granted, the business would operate 3pm-11pm seven days a week.

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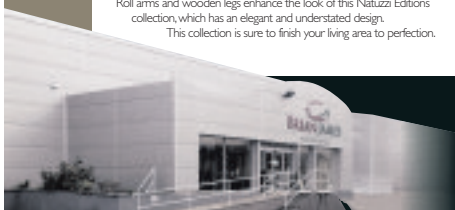
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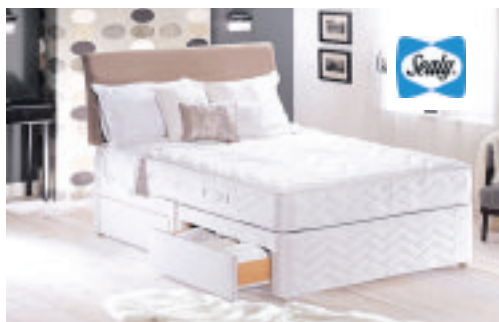


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It's hoops of delight for schoolgirls

A GROUP of schoolgirls from Aldridge School are ecstatic having netted themselves fourth place in a UK netball competition.

The team, made up of pupils from years 10 and 11, improved on their former top 10 UK ranking by beating more than 1,500 other schools in the National Schools Netball Tournament.

This is the third time the school from Tynings Lane has made it to the finals held in Basildon, Essex and it is best result so far after finishing ninth in 2011 and seventh in 2012.

Helen Penney, teacher and head coach, said: "Not only is the team in the top two in the West Midlands, it is the fourth best school netball team in the country so we are very proud of them all."

Lions put on diabetes day

PEOPLE concerned about diabetes can get advice at a Aldridge meeting.

Aldridge and District Lions Club has organised a day to raise awareness about the dangers of type 2 diabetes.

On Saturday, April 13 a free open house will be held at Colin Lee Opticians in Aldridge Precinct between 10am and 4pm where those with concerns can chat about the likelihood of developing the condition with health professionals from Northgate Medical Practice.

Spring clean gets started in battle for blooming success

A LONG-AWAITED spring clean has got under way in Aldridge village centre as it prepares for gold at this year's Britain in Bloom.

The High Street and square are receiving a makeover after the village won gold in the Heart of England in Bloom competition last year.

by Tom Mason

A large grassed area is being created on a patch of land currently taken up by the disused neighbourhood office that has been at the site for more than 30 years.

Future plans include planting of bulbs and other plants as well as adding of a seating area to enhance the new town centre.

Volunteers from the hillage partnership's gardening group have also been planting at other sights along with work by Aldridge Rotary and Lions club on the Croft in preparation for this year's Britain in Bloom.

Maria Cooke, chairman of Aldridge Village Partnership said: "The whole community is working together to improve Aldridge."

"We are much stronger group for all those that have helped. We shall continue to

work hard for the competition, but the most important thing remains the businesses, communities and people of Aldridge."

The new improvements will be given their first dry run at the popular three-day continental market on April 12, 13, and 14 between 9am and 5pm that last year saw large crowds fill the busy market square.

The event aims to bigger and better than ever before with more than 100 stalls featuring food and crafts, ranging from French crepes to German bratwurst as well as jewellery and clothing.

For more information about volunteering for the gardening group contact Janet Fry on 01922 451638.



Sixth former Stephanie Westley, aged 17, and other students and staff at St Francis of Assisi School who have written to the new Pope

Students from St Francis send support to Pope

AN ALDRIDGE secondary school that shares the same name as the new Pope has written to the Vatican to welcome him to his post.

Staff and students at St Francis of Assisi said they were pleased to hear Francis would be the name adopted by the newly elected leader of the Catholic church.

Argentinian Jorge Bergoglio was elected this month, taking over from Pope Benedict XVI. He chose the name Francis, after St Francis of Assisi, one of the most venerated religious figures in history.

Pupils at St Francis Catholic Technology College, Erdington Road, have written to Rome, saying the school will be supporting the new Pope through prayer.

Sixth form students also emailed their prayers to the Vatican.

They wrote: "We are delighted you have taken the name of Francis as it is of great importance to our school community."

"We deeply value our faith and will look to you for spiritual guidance, support and inspiration during these challenging times being a Roman Catholic."

Head of religious education Joanne Lawrence said: "We at St Francis of Assisi School wanted to express our joy at the new Pope's election and his choice of Francis as his papal name."

'Best of' praise for business

THE owner of a fledgling Aldridge firm is enjoying the admiration of being declared "the most loved recruitment business in the UK".

Company director Mark Rainsbury, 42, from Aldridge has managed to turn his company Rainsbury Recruitment and Coaching into one of the UK's top firms in its field in less than 18 months.

The Best of Walsall scheme nominated him for the Most Loved Coaching and Mentoring Business in the UK, which Mr Rainsbury went on to win.

Advise

He has been able to advise hundreds of job seekers from the borough back in to work using his personal approach.

He said: "It's nice to be recognised for my work I really enjoy helping people in the borough."

"What's really nice is that it's based upon recommendations from former clients."

Question time

A COMMUNITY meeting will be held next week to discuss local issues in Aldridge and Streetly.

The meeting, at 6pm on Tuesday, April 2, at All Saints Church, Foley Road East, Streetly, will feature discussions on the area action plan and the after Walsall Question Time.

Visit the website www.walsallpartnership.org.uk for more information.

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As the Easter break is upon us and summer time is fastly approaching why not take advantage of some spectacular Easter savings, by visiting a buoyant fireplace showroom in the centre of Aldridge

Since relocating to Aldridge over four years ago, the company seems to be growing from

strength to strength, having also recently refurbished their Bromsgrove branch to "We have both been surprised, and pleased, with how the business has progressed" states Matt. "In this current climate, people are choosing not to move but, stay and improve their home, and a fireplace will add significant value to their home." Aldridge Fireplaces is a family-owned business with the emphasis on a relaxed, personal service and offers a unique service on all suites and packages, the stylish showroom features some exclusive marble and Portuguese limestone displays, solid wood and stone surrounds.

Our experienced sales staff are also able to offer packages to suit all ages and styles

of home, and offer quality products at affordable prices, as well as manufacture

bespoke fireplaces to the correct size for each customer if required. In addition to this there is currently FREE FITTING on offer when you purchase a fire with a suite. We will be carrying out one of our biggest sales yet! on Good Friday 29th, Saturday 30th March and Monday 1st April where we will be offering some amazing deals, "we feel Easter is an opportunity for families to get out" states Dan "and with this in mind we wanted to offer our customers something special and decided for this weekend only to offer 50% off any fire when purchased with one of our quality suites".

"The free fitting has proven to be very popular" adds Matt "We now have a qualified Gas safe and Hetas accredited team of engineers who are employed by the company and our customers

can therefore be confident that all work carried out is completed to the relevant industry standards. Matt comments "Most fireplace showrooms in the market will offer a card from a third party installer, well that's where we differ as all our works are carried out and guaranteed by the company therefore giving you added satisfaction and piece of mind."

Staff will visit each home if required to ensure the correct specification of fireplace is fitted. "The choice of fires and fireplaces is a very personal one, so with us visiting each customer's home personally we can offer advice as to which ones would look the best"

"In the past we have celebrated our anniversary with different offers" adds Matt. "However this is one of our best yet 50% is a massive saving" Not only are we offering our customers FREE FITTING on all suites when purchased with a gas or electric fire we will give you a 50% discount off any of our gas or electric fire range (this excludes balanced flue and power flued specialist fires and any managers specials). I don't believe anyone else in the area are currently offering such an amazing deals this Easter.

With all this in mind it has never been a better time to purchase your new fireplace from us and with the added incentive of 50% off your gas or electric fire when purchased with any suite, this is an offer not to be missed.

This is an offer not to be missed and will start Good Friday 29th March 10am - 4:30pm, Saturday 30th March 10am - 4:30pm Sunday 31st March Closed and reopen Monday 1st April 2013 10am - 4pm for 3 days only!!

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COMPETITION

Make your day by meeting up with this Knight



Learn about the daring deeds of Mike The Knight

CALLING all knights! Westfield Merry Hill has an exciting offer for aspiring knights across the Midlands in search of their next adventure.

Popular CBeebies character Mike the Knight will be making his way to the centre to tell thrilling tales of his daring deeds, and five families will receive an exclusive meet and greet with their hero.

Activity

On top of that, each family will receive a £100 gift card for Merry Hill to have an Easter splurge on toys, eggs, or whatever else takes their fancy!

TV favourite Mike, a 10-year-old knight-in-training, is known to kids for his forays into an enchanting medieval world along with wizard-in-training sister Evie and trusted steed Galahad. He'll be performing a special

story-telling show for youngsters on Tuesday, April 9 at Fountain Square, where he'll captivate kids with sagas of his marvelous missions in a world of castles, dragons, Vikings and trolls.

Five lucky families (up to three children and two parents) will gain entrance to the show, and will afterwards have a personal chat with the star and a shopping splurge on the centre.

If readers miss out on Mike, other CBeebies favourites Yojojo and De Li On from Waybuloo will also be stopping by Westfield on Tuesday April 2.

Lots of other half-term activity will be taking place across the centre, from free cupcake bunny sessions in Eat Central to comic and superhero mask making classes, to the opening of Quest's Nerf combat zone and the UK's first Yu-kids soft play area.

More information can be found at <http://uk.westfield.com/merryhill/>

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to meet Mike and receive the £100 gift card, simply answer the following question:

What is the name of Mike the Knight's horse?

- Merlin
- Galahad
- Lancelot

Send your answer on a post-card with your name, address and contact number to Knight Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, April 4. No cash alternative. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

Contact number needed



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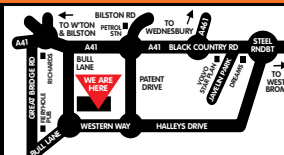
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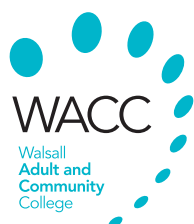
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Happy Easter from WACC



Career Launch is new to WACC this year and is a unique opportunity to choose one of 5 courses that introduce you to a skills sector you would like to explore with a view to finding a job.

All programmes are for 12 weeks, starting in April, are for two or three days a week and provide accredited qualifications that will be attractive to any employer and offer a stepping stone to higher level study and development.

Career Launch

Places are limited so call our guidance staff on 01922 663000 to book your place.

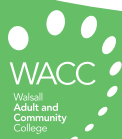
Career Launch Packages

Career	Time	Details
IT Support	Monday and Tuesday 9.30am-3.00pm, begins 15 April	Broad range course involving customer service in IT, software installation and updates and hardware servicing aimed at helping people to gain employment as broadband technicians or in IT support.
Career Launch in Hospitality and Catering	Monday and Tuesday 9.30am-3.00pm, begins 15 April	You will develop practical skills and knowledge in basic food preparation, food and kitchen safety, healthy eating and customer service. You will have the opportunity to develop your maths and English skills. You will learn your skills in a well equipped kitchen. You will gain an insight into the vast career opportunities the hospitality and catering industry offers.
Career Launch in Textiles and Creative Crafts	Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am-3.00pm, begins 16 April	You will be provided with an opportunity to develop your skills in textiles and creative crafts; this will enable you to gain a broad overview of creative skills. You will be able to develop your enterprise skills and gain an insight into setting up your own business.
Career Launch in Health & Social Care	Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-3.00pm, begins 17 April	This course offers you the opportunity to make an informed choice about the different career paths available to you in the Health & Social Care sector. You should do this course if you want to go onto further training or gain employment in a Health & Social care setting such as nursing or residential homes.
Career Launch in Childcare	Monday and Wednesday 9.30am-3.00pm, begins 15 April	This course offers you the opportunity to make an informed choice about the different career paths available to you in the childcare sector. You should do this course if you want to go onto further training or gain employment in any childcare profession. Depending on your progress, you will gain a certificate in Level 1 City and Guilds Certificate Introduction to Childcare.

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£50

All Career Launches qualify for a Love to Learn Love to Shop voucher – £50 on completion of your course!



The Hospitality & Catering Career Launch will be held at Walsall Football Club Hospitality & catering department



Discover Counselling

Discovering Counselling is ideal for those who are thinking about moving into counselling as a career or those who work with others in a support or guidance role. The brand new, six week taster will cover listening & questioning skills, body language and non-verbal communication, how to communicate empathically and a general introduction to counselling.

Begins Thursday 18 April 2013 at 6.00pm at our WACC Hawbush Site.



Level 4 Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning sector (PTLLS)

This qualification is for pre-service and in-service teachers and trainers who would like or require an introduction to teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector, are seeking career progression within their area of work. There are no formal entry requirements but ideally you must be considering a subject for delivery and be aiming to achieve or have achieved a qualification and experience for this subject at the appropriate level. Course begins 14 May 2013 for 11 weeks 5.00pm to 8.45pm.

Call our Learner Gateway on 01922 663000



Want to become a Teaching Assistant?

Enrol on our Supporting Teaching & Learning in Schools course

This course offers you the opportunity to directly support the teaching and learning of pupils in a primary or secondary school. It will prepare you for employment in a school and we will assess you within your chosen placement as well as building your confidence and knowledge within our classroom.

This course requires no previous knowledge or experience of the role.

To succeed on the course you will need to attend regularly, participate in all classroom activities and under-take an initial assessment for English and maths. An Enhanced CRB is also a requirement. You will be required to have a one day placement in a school of your choice.

Level 2 begins on Friday 19 April at Surestart Pleck and our **Level 3** course begins on Thursday 18 April at WACC Hawbush Site.

Call our Learner Gateway for more details on 01922 663000

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English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Courses

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Alumwell Infant School	Tuesday/Thursday	9.30am-11.30am 1.00pm-3.00pm
Alumwell Pleck Sure start	Tuesday/Thursday	9.30am-11.30am
Alumwell Business Centre	Monday/Wednesday	1.00pm-3.00pm
Bentley Drive	Monday/Wednesday	9.15am-11.15am
Birchills School	Tuesday/Thursday	9.30am-11.30am 1.00pm-3.00pm
Green Lane Baptist Church	Tuesday/Thursday	10.00am-12.00pm
Sikh Recreational Centre	Monday/Wednesday	9.30am-11.30am
Kings Hill School	Monday/Wednesday	1.00pm-3.00pm
Charles Cody Academy	Monday/Wednesday	9.30am-11.30am
Salisbury Street	Monday/Wednesday	1.15pm-3.15pm
Small Street	Monday/Wednesday	9.30am-4.00pm
Croft Street	Monday/Wednesday	9.30am-11.30am

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Begins Monday 15 April 2013 at 9.30am

Reflexology

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Begins Thursday 18 April 2013 at 10.45am

Gentle Exercise

Feel the benefits that gentle exercise can bring at our WACC Hawbush site.

Begins Thursday 25 April at 10.30am

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MEMORY LANE



Lichfield Passage in the 1960s showing part of the Royal London Building, left, and the now-restored 18th century shops, right, Picture: Wolverhampton City Council



An early 1800s John Fullwood drawing of Wheeler's Fold, with the arched entrance from Lichfield Street*



Cottages in Farmer's Fold, taken in 1955 showing the back of Povey's Bakery and Restaurant Picture: Jim Dowdall, Wolverhampton Photographic Society



Back-to-back cottages and cobbled yard in Townwell Fold in 1913, looking at the back of Victoria Street*



The Pig and Whistle pub, Wheeler's Fold. Next door can be seen the former Noah's Ark Methodist Meeting House, opened by John Wesley in 1787*

Unfolding the history of alleys and streets

YOU may not have noticed the little alleys or streets in Wolverhampton City Centre with the name Fold.

You may think they are dead-ends, or private access-ways. You may not have given them a second thought.

But if you stop to consider, you will realise the name has a meaning. They may not look like they would hold sheep today.

Development and redevelopment over the centuries change towns and cities, even historical, tourist places.

But their history does not disappear, and their remaining unique features from the past deserve preservation.

Wolverhampton's wealth in Mediaeval times was built on the wool and cloth trade, wealth which paid for St Peter's Collegiate Church to be rebuilt on a grand scale in the 14th century, and made grander a hundred years later. Local merchants traded in this

by Anthony and Joyce Perry

country and Europe, there were the different trades-people in the industry, such as tailors, drapers, weavers, spinners, fullers, dyers, plus those who sorted, scribbled and scoured the wool.

Sheep came in from Shropshire and the Welsh Marches for sale in the sheep market, which was possibly sited in North Street, its old name being Tup Street.

The Folds, off the main Mediaeval streets, served as temporary locations for penning the animals. Each has a story to tell.

Blossoms Fold takes its name from church prebendaries (priests) in the 14th century.

Townwell Fold was the location of four wells serving the townspeople. Wheeler's Fold has different possible origins, and has connections with John Wesley,

Charles Dickens and renowned actress Sarah Siddons.

Farmer's Fold is named after 18th century bakers, but has names older than this.

Some of these streets and alleys are well used, well looked after and put to good commercial use, others are in need of refurbishment, bringing back into use and making more well known to the public.

Picking up on this, and using the information researched to produce the book *The Folds of Wolverhampton* (Brewin Books), the Wolverhampton Civic and Historical Society have begun a website, www.wolverhamptonfolds.co.uk for use by owners, occupiers, the council and the public.

Each subject is highlighted with its needs, with the ultimate intention of making something of a unique feature of the city centre and an important part of Wolverhampton's history.

* Photographs courtesy of Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies



Woolpack Alley alias Henny's Fold in the 1970s, looking towards the narrow passage into Queen Square. The three story 1850s building was the rear part of Alfred Hall and Son, outfitters*



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Semi Detached

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- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Driveway

£575 PCM



Semi Detached House

TO LET

79 Gower Street, Pleck, Walsall, WS2 9AZ

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Area
- Downstairs W.C
- Family Bathroom
- Garage
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Double Glazing

£575 PCM



Semi Detached House

TO LET

16 Coppice Lane, Short Heath, Willenhall, WV12 5RS

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NEWS

Pupils are given shelter for their scooters



From left, Chloe Forrester, Louis Street, Joshua France, Sam Simmon, Leah Crowshaw, and Chelsea Eccleston, front YOUNGSTERS at a Willenhall school have a new place to park their scooters – a purpose-built shed. Short Heath Junior is the first school in the borough to have one of the structures built. Tracey Jephcott, from the school, said she hoped the shed would encourage more pupils to scooter in rather than come by car.

She said: "We want to keep our kids fit. We have problems with parking so we want to discourage parents from driving their children into school." The shed was built by Walsall

Council as part of the A*Stars scheme which encourages children to walk, cycle or scooter in to school. Around 40 of the pupils ride their scooters into the school in Pennine Way.

Mrs Jephcott, who is the A*Stars co-ordinator, said the school had been involved in the council-run initiative for the past five years. Year 5 and 6 children at the school are awarded points every time they walk, cycle or scooter into school. At the end of each term the children get prizes such as free pencils, watches, pens and wrist bands.

Flats get green makeover

TENANTS of high-rise flats in Walsall are being given help with rising fuel bills through a green makeover scheme.

More than 270 households at seven blocks managed by Walsall Housing Group will receive improvements designed to reduce bills after an agreement with provider, British Gas.

Work on the homes at Bamford House, Whiston House, St Annes Court, St Giles Court, Orlando House, Barleyfields House and Newhall House

is due to start within weeks and is expected take two years.

Work includes external insulation, new communal heating, balcony refurbishments and redecorated communal areas all funded by Energy Company Obligation (ECO) cash, which for the first time, creates a legal obligation on energy suppliers to improve the energy efficiency of households.

The Walsall blocks will be some of the first in the UK to receive the cash that sets a precedent for future work. Cliff Horrocks, whg director of asset

management, said: "We were the first landlord to take advantage of the now-finished funding, and are delighted to be in a position to be one of the first to bring in funding for customers from this new government programme."

"The projects should not only improve the look of the properties but also result in significant savings for customers. With changes around benefits we know many customers are worried about bills, so we hope making improvements such as these will help balance some of this concern."

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REVIEWS

Show still living off Memory of the 80s

CATS is a musical for people who love dance and, indeed, cats.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's blockbuster, his most successful behind Phantom, brought in the era of the mega-musical in the 1980s, and feels rather stuck in that decade of flash over substance.

It has only one great song and not much of a story but what it does have is an incredible rubbish dump set, remarkable costumes, lots of feline

Cats, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton - by Leon Burakowski

grace and an energetic cast. Based on whimsical poems by TS Eliot about a tribe of magical London moggies, the Jellic Cats attending their Jellic ball, its two-and-a-half hours are crammed with relentless, exhausting choreography devised by Gillian Lynne.

The songs, a series of sketches introducing various cat characters, let

Lloyd Webber indulge his magpie passion for different musical styles. A pity then that this revival's live band sometimes drowned out the singing.

The killer song is Memory, as sung by Grizabella the faded glamour puss, which was powerfully performed by Filipino actress Joanna Ampil.

The show remains a popular phenomenon and hasn't reached its ninth life yet. It runs until Saturday.

Don't miss out on Phantom



Earl Carpenter in the lead role of Phantom of the Opera, which runs until May 4

Phantom of the Opera, Birmingham Hippodrome

ANGEL of Music she certainly is. Katie Hall, as Christine, just stole the show in this stunning production. Her mesmerising performance proved she has a superb voice and can act as well.

The Hippodrome was packed, and I am not surprised. Once word gets out of how good this is I would imagine there will be a scramble for tickets. It is definitely not one to be missed.

Performances from Earl Carpenter as the Phantom and Carlotta, the ousted star, were

excellent. There were some amusing interludes as the Phantom sent notes to various cast members and high drama as the huge chandelier started to 'drop' above the audience but the real highlight was the spectacular voice and passion shown by Kate.

The story is of Erik, a musical genius whose face is horribly disfigured, who hides from the world in the cellar dungeons of the Paris Opera House. He falls in love with a young singer, Christine and starts to coach her to become a perfect singer.

And he certainly did a very good job.

Sue Attwater

Opposites attract for Biffy fans

Biffy Clyro, LG Arena, Birmingham

SINCE Only Revolutions heralded long-awaited acclaim for the Scottish rockers, the wheel of fortune has continued to turn in their favour.

And, they proved Opposites attract as the tour of that name drew a big crowd to Birmingham.

I had been warned - many of horror - that the trio may go topless, and they duly did throughout the whole set, from the opening Different People to the finale of Mountains, with that Matt Cardle classic thrown in.

There's been debate over their name, and they claim to be uncool, but there's no doubt they put on a rocking show.

In the second performance of their biggest arena tour to date, the likes of Bubbles and Who's Got a Match? had the whole crowd bouncing, while vocalist Simon Neil threw in solos including Machines and God and Satan for good measure.

Mark Shipp

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OUT AND ABOUT

A trail of treasure in historic locations



Easter trails in beautiful surroundings to find delicious treasure has become a spring tradition for many families thanks to the National Trust and English Heritage

THE EASTER Egg hunt has become a delightful part of the season as the region's mansions and castles re-open for spring with the ever-popular children's treasure trails which are rewarded with a chocolate treat.

The National Trust has lined up a series of these eggs-travaganzas at its properties.

These will be held at Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton, from Saturday to Monday, March 30-April 1; and for an urban alternative at the Birmingham Back to Backs, Hurst Street, from Mar 29-Apr 1.

Egg trails can also be followed at Biddulph Grange Garden in Staffordshire and at Victorian villa Sunnycroft in Wellington, Shropshire, from Mar 29-Apr 1.

Easter fun is promised at Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton, Mar 29-Apr 1; activity days with an Easter theme will be held at Dudmaston Estate, near Bridgnorth, Mar 31-Apr 1; events will be held on Kinver Edge and at the Rock Houses, Mar 31-Apr 1, and on the Clent Hills, Romsley, Mar 29-30.

Trails will be held at Attingham Park, near Shrewsbury, from Mar 29-Apr 14, and at Carding Mill Valley, near Church Stretton, Mar 29-Apr 1. Times vary see the website www.eastereggtrails.co.uk for details.

Medieval

English Heritage offer Easter fun trails from March 29 to April 14 at beautiful Witley Court and Gardens, the former home of the Earls of Dudley near Stourport, at medieval Stokesay Castle and Roman Wroxeter in Shropshire, and from March 23 to April 14 at Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden, near Coventry. The trails run daily from 10am to 5pm (until 6pm at Witley Court).

For more information visit the special website at www.english-heritage.org.uk/events or call 0870 333 1183 for a leaflet.

There will be a Horrible Histories theme at Warwick Castle where the castle crew celebrate 20 years of the popular children's history books with a series of Foul Fayres, starting with Awesome Easter from March 23 to April 14.

Troubling tales and fearsome facts from the Smashing Saxons to the Vile Victorians will be brought to life with lots of gruesome gore, plague and pestilence at the impressive castle. The Foul Fayre is included in the usual admission price. The attraction also includes Merlin The Dragon Tower, The Princess Tower and Castle Dungeon. See www.warwick-castle.com for details.

What's On! **Walsall****Punk pop queen returns to roots**

FORMER punk pop queen Toyah Wilcox returns to her native West Midlands to tread the boards, as a comic actress rather than a singer.

She takes the lead role in men-baiting girls' night out show *Hormonal Housewives*, a series of comedy sketches co-starring and co-written by Scottish actress Julie Coombe, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 2 and 3.

The Birmingham actress will then bring the show to Lichfield Garrick on May 11 as part of its nationwide tour.

Ramblers to take programme detour

IN a change to the programme the Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be heading to the Clent Hills for a nine-mile circular walk on Sunday.

This is a woodland walk reaching the Four Stones on Clent and then on the North Worcestershire Path to pass Hagley Hall and the Wychbury Obelisk.

Non members should contact the walk leader on 01922 455257.

Dance for charity

A BALLROOM dance organised by Pelsall Kidney Machine Committee to raise money for Wolverhampton New Cross Hospital will take place on April 6 at Wombourne Civic Centre. Details are available on 01922 683159.

Northern soul Lisa is on her way for a comeback

SHE'S been all around the world but now Lancashire soul queen Lisa Stansfield is on her way back to the UK's concert halls.

The Rochdale girl who lit up the early '90s with her distinctive kiss curl, soulful vocals and mega-hit *All Around The World*, will be reconnecting with her Midlands fans at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Sunday, June 16.

That comes the day after what is set to be a triumphant homecoming at Salford's Lowry Theatre.

The double Brit Award-winner, who sold 20 million albums and topped the charts in 12 countries, is putting the finishing touches to her seventh album, following a handful of acclaimed low-key gigs last year.

She is also due to have a starring role alongside Steve Coogan in a new British movie this year, *Northern Soul*. It's about the 1970s dance music scene that was hugely popular in the North and Midlands.

Break

For the past seven years Lisa has had a break from the music scene but the 46-year-old is now keeping true to her word in hit song *Someday (I'm Coming Back)*.

She's not the only female hit-maker back on the road. Former Yazoo star Alison Moyet returns with album *The Minutes* in May and a Symphony Hall concert on October 28.



Concert - Lisa Stansfield



Michael Ball had a hit in 1989 with Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Love Changes Everything*

A perfect song for Michael

WEST End star and popular crooner Michael Ball will be performing a new song written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Leslie Bricusse when he appears in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Saturday, April 27.

The *Perfect Song* is the first collaboration between the songwriting giants. Lloyd Webber has written many of the most successful musicals of the past four decades. Bricusse's classics include *The Candy Man*, *Goldfinger* and *What Kind Of Fool Am I?*

The new song features on Michael Ball's latest album *Both Sides Now* and has been released as a single. Also featured is *Fight The Fight*, from Tim Rice and Stuart Brayson's forthcoming musical *From Here To Eternity*.

Wonderland on show at cinema

CINEMA goers can experience a menagerie of colourful characters with Alice's Adventures in Wonderland brought to life by the Royal Ballet, broadcast live via satellite to Showcase Walsall today (Thursday) at 7.15pm.

Audiences can witness The Royal Ballet dancing a myriad of quirky characters with Lauren Cuthbertson playing the title role of Alice.

There will be an encore screening on Sunday at 1pm. Tickets are available from the box office at www.cinemadelux.co.uk or on 0871 220 1000.

Easter rides with cycling club

THE Walsall and Family Cycling Group has a series of rides over Easter. This Saturday sees the fifth Special Ride dedicated to Derrick Harrison. It starts at 9.30 am but is unsuitable for young children.

A family cycle ride starts from Chasewater Innovation Centre Cafe, at 9.30 am on the same day. It goes to the Pines Cafe, near Hednesford, Cannock Chase, for breakfast before returning home.

On Sunday a ride starts from Bloxwich parish church at 9.15 am. It stops for morning coffee at Cosford Air Museum before going on to All Nations, Madeley, for lunch. Check www.chasecycling.co.uk/ for late changes.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 30.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Jenna-Louise Coleman

Doctor Who

BBC1, 6.15pm
If you're a Doctor Who fan, 2013 is going to be a big year. November 23rd marks the 50th anniversary of the show, and the Beeb is pulling out all the stops to celebrate it. But we have eight months to wait until we see the fruits of their labours. Until then, we'll have to make do with the second half of season seven, which will see Jenna-Louise Coleman reprise her role as Clara, who turns up this time in modern-day London to help the Doctor defeat wi-fi-dwelling villains who steal people's souls. He then thinks she'd make the perfect companion.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Richard Hammond's Secret Service. **2.40** Film: Freaky Friday. (2003) **4.10** Final Score. **5.10** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.55** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

6.15 **Doctor Who.** The Time Lord returns for eight new adventures, the first of which sees him joining new companion Clara to tackle a wi-fi menace in London. Matt Smith and Jenna-Louise Coleman star.

7.00 **The Voice UK.** New series. Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates return with the all-singing, chair-spinning talent contest, with coaches Tom Jones, Jessie J, Will.i.am and Danny O'Donoghue.

8.35 **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

9.25 **Casualty.** Tom helps a young man with a troubled home life, while Jamie treats a junior boxer who reminds him of his difficult past. Tom becomes jealous when another doctor asks Sam out.

10.15 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 **Match of the Day.** Including highlights of Sunderland v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

12.05 The Football League Show. **2.25** Film: (BST) The Uninvited. (2009) **3.50** Weatherview. **3.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.00** Great British Menu. (R) **8.00** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00** Meet the Ancestors. (R) **11.30** Map Man. (R) **12.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **12.30** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **1.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **1.30** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **2.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **2.30** Mastermind. (R) **3.00** University Challenge. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.15** The Great British Bake Off Easter Masterclass. (R) **5.15** Easter from King's. A service from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge.

6.30 **The Good Life.** Margo's new windbreak causes problems for Tom and Barbara. (R)

7.00 **Richard Briers: A Tribute.** Friends and colleagues celebrate the life of the actor, who died last month and whose 50-year career encompassed TV, stage, film and radio. Ever Decreasing Circles and the documentary All About The Good Life can be seen tomorrow from 6.30pm.

8.00 **Bach: A Passionate Life.** John Eliot Gardiner examines the life of the German composer, discovering he was a complex artist, a warm and convivial family man and a rebellious spirit.

9.30 **QI.** With Julia Zemirow, Sue Perkins and Ross Noble. (R)

10.00 **Life's Too Short Special.** One-off edition of the spoof documentary, starring Warwick Davis.

11.00 **Film: Anita & Me.** (2002) Comedy drama, starring Cherie Lunghi.

12.30 **Film: Brooklyn Rules.** (2007) **3.00** (BST) This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Dino Dan. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Canimals. (R) **7.25** Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** TV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.25** My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) **11.25** Dinner Date. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.40** Countrywise. (R) **12.55** Film: March of the Penguins. (2005) **2.20** The Chase. **3.20** Film: The Incredible Hulk. (2008) **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

6.00 **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a selection of comical clips filmed by viewers on their camcorders and mobile phones, featuring a quad bike with a mind of its own and Peter Pan taking a tumble. (R)

7.00 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The Geordie duo recruit Simon Cowell to play an undercover prank on Piers Morgan, and Michael Buble performs at the end of the show.

8.20 **The Cube.** A legal secretary from Essex and a young Welsh father try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000.

9.20 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** With James Nesbitt and Depeche Mode.

10.20 **ITV News: Weather.**

10.35 **Film: 300.** (2006) Fantasy adventure, starring Gerard Butler.

12.40 **Jackpot247.** **4.00** (BST) Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **4.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** British Rallycross. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.50** Frasier. (R) **10.20** Frasier. (R) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.45** The Simpsons. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. **4.25** Come Dine with Me. **4.55** Come Dine with Me. **5.20** Come Dine with Me. **5.50** Channel 4 Racing: The Dubai World Cup. **6.35** Channel 4 News.

6.55 **Easter Eggs Live.** Mark Evans presents a week of live programmes following the hatchlings of a variety of creatures.

7.00 **Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses.** Three people in Wandsworth, south London, who are eager to attract buyers for their flats, look around one another's properties for improvement ideas.

8.00 **Walking Through History.** New series. Tony Robinson embarks on expeditions through some of Britain's most historic landscapes, starting with a 40-mile walk along the Derwent Valley in the Peak District.

9.00 **Labyrinth.** A modern-day PhD graduate and a 17-year-old from the 13th century experience an adventure that intertwines their lives. Concludes tomorrow.

11.05 **Big Fat Quiz of the 80s.** Jimmy Carr grills five celebrities on the 1980s. (R)

12.40 **Film: Happy, Happy.** (2010) **3.10** (BST) Hollywood. **5.15** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.45** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Inside Hollywood. **11.15** The Gadget Show: Future Special. (R) **12.15** Whale Adventure with Nigel Marven. (R) **1.15** Robinson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **2.15** Film: The Big Country. (1958) **5.30** Film: Guns of the Magnificent Seven. (1969) **7.25** **5 News Weekend.** **7.30** **CSI: NY.** Stella, Flack and Lindsay suspect a joke-shop owner known as Laughing Larry was somehow complicit in the death of an extravagant internet entrepreneur killed by an exploding cigar. (R)

8.15 **NCIS.** Part two of two. Agent Callen goes undercover. Tony questions Ziva's loyalty to the team, and a psychologist uncovers the truth about the relationship between Gibbs and Agent Macy. (R)

9.15 **NCIS.** The team works alongside the FBI to track the killer of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent who was murdered during a poker game at the Secretary of the Navy's house. (R)

10.15 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** A mutilated corpse is found in a park.

11.10 **Law & Order: Criminal Intent.** The team is faced with a lengthy list of potential suspects while investigating the murder of a magazine editor known for his abrasive personality.

12.10 **SuperCasino.** **4.00** (BST) Nick's Quest. (R) **4.25** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2011: Not in 3D **7.15** Dragons: Gift of the Night Fury **7.35** Shrek: Once Upon a Time **8.35** Film: Shrek the Third (2007) **10.00** Live at the Apollo **11.05** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 The Kimbolton Cabinet **7.30** The Art of the Vikings: Secret Knowledge **8.00** Carved with Love: The Genius of British Woodwork **9.00** Classic Albums **9.50** Film: The Secret in Their Eyes (2009)

ITV2
4.10 Film: Back to the Future (1985) **6.30** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **8.20** Film: Uncle Buck (1989) **10.20** Celebrity Juice: The Big Reunion Special **11.05** Plebs

ITV3
2.35 Film: On the Buses (1971) **4.25** Film: Mutiny on the Buses (1972) **6.10** Film: Holiday on the Buses (1973) **8.00** Rosemary & Thyme **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05** A Touch of Frost

ITV4
1.20 Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **4.30** Film: The Way West (1967) **7.00** TT Legends Review **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **11.00** Film: Fire Down Below (1997)

E4
3.05 Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **5.00** Youngers **5.30** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Rules of Engagement **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00** 50 Greatest Plastic Surgery Shockers **11.15** Big Bang Theory

Film4
3.05 The Spy Next Door (2010) **4.55** My Neighbor Totoro (1988) **6.45** Entrapment (1999) **9.00** GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **11.15** The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2009)

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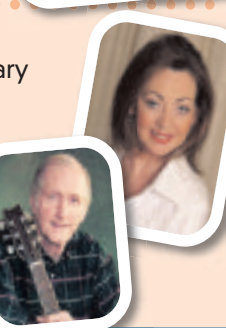
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SUNDAY'S TV 31.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Donald Campbell: Speed King BBC2, 8pm
When it comes to daredevils, few are as celebrated as Donald Campbell. While the likes of Evel Knievel may grab the attention, Campbell retains a place in the UK public's hearts thanks to his good old-fashioned stiff upper lip, determination and ambition. His story is retold in this gripping documentary, from his childhood when he would witness his father Malcolm's daredevil attempts to break land and water speed records during the 1920s and 1930s, to his own career and eventual death at Coniston Water in 1967.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.15** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** Live Easter Sunday from Paisley Abbey. **11.00** Urbi et Orbi. **11.35** Countryfile. (R) **12.30** BBC News: Weather. **12.40** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.25** Escape to the Country. **1.55** Film: Madagascar (2005). **3.15** The Boat Race 2013. **5.25** Songs of Praise.
6.00 **Deadly 60 on a Mission.** Steve Backshall searches for lethal animals in Mexico, encountering a bull shark, the speedy sailfish, an army of predatory bats and a dark cave of hanging serpents.
6.30 **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.
7.00 **Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison is at St Michael's Mount in Cornwall, where spring comes early, and presents archive items including searches for ancient orchards and Britain's largest land mammal.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the experts visit Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire, where items include a Victorian dog collar, early royal relics and a painting of a Second World War battle. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.
9.00 **The Village.** New series. Epic drama charting life in an English village across 100 years as seen through the eyes of one resident living from boyhood to old age.
10.00 **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.
10.25 **Match of the Day 2.** Aston Villa v Liverpool.
11.15 **Regional Programme.**
11.45 **Film: House of Sand and Fog.** (2003)
1.45 **Weather.** **1.50** **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This is BBC Two. **6.05** **Film:** Journey into Fear. (1943) **7.15** **Film:** One of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing. (1975) **8.45** **Gardeners' World.** (R) **9.15** **The A to Z of TV Gardening.** **10.00** **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.30** **Paul Hollywood's Bread.** (R) **12.00** **Great British Menu.** (R) **1.00** **Great British Menu.** (R) **2.00** **EastEnders.** (R) **3.55** **Secrets of Our Living Planet.** (R) **4.55** **Film: Galaxy Quest.** (1999)
6.30 **Ever Decreasing Circles.** Martin's cricket team is a man short. (R)
7.00 **All About The Good Life.** The story of the 1970s sitcom about a couple who opted out of the rat race and turned their suburban back garden into a smallholding. (R)
8.00 **Donald Campbell: Speed King.** Profile of the man who set eight world speed records on water and land in the 1950s and 1960s, using rare archive footage and first-hand testimonies of those who knew him.
9.00 **Toughest Place to Be a Bus Driver - The Return.** London bus driver Josh West goes back to the chaotic streets of Manila in the Philippines, where he spent a fortnight learning to drive a "jeepney" two years ago.
10.00 **Mock the Week Looks Back at Law and Order.** A selection from the show's archives on the theme of law and order.
10.30 **It's Kevin.** An attempt is made to change the course of history.
11.00 **Film: Enigma.** (2001)
12.50 **Sign Zone: A Very British Wedding.** (R) **1.50** **Holby City.** (R) **2.50** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** **The Hive.** (R) **6.35** **The Hive.** (R) **6.45** **Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00** **Dino Dan.** (R) **7.10** **Canimals.** (R) **7.20** **Canimals.** (R) **7.25** **Bookaboo.** **7.40** **Matt Hatter Chronicles.** (R) **8.05** **Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil.** **8.15** **Kick Buttowski - Suburban Daredevil.** **8.30** **Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **8.45** **Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **9.00** **The Aquabats Super Show.** **9.25** **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **10.15** **Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) **11.15** **All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **12.00** **ITV News: Weather.** **12.10** **Film: King Ralph.** (1991)
2.00 **Doc Martin.** (R) **3.00** **Food Glorious Food.** (R) **4.00** **Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor.** (2008)
6.05 **Regional Programme:** Weather.
6.15 **ITV News: Weather.**
6.30 **Andrew Lloyd Webber: 40 Musical Years.** Michael Ball hosts an entertainment special in which stars including Nicole Scherzinger, Kimberley Walsh, Melanie C, Il Divo and Mylene Klass perform the composer's greatest hits.
8.00 **Foyle's War.** The detective's investigation into the death of a nameless Russian leads to a mysterious military facility run by a respected colonel with an impeccable war record.
10.00 **Perspectives: Sheila Hancock - The Brilliant Bronte Sisters.** The actress explores the work of the 19th-century literary family.
11.00 **ITV News: Weather.**
11.15 **Premiership Rugby Union.**
12.15 **The Store.** **2.15** **Monk.** (R) **3.00** **ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Treacle People.** (R) **6.10** **The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35** **The Hoobs.** (R) **7.00** **Film: Barnyard.** (2006) Animated comedy, with the voice of Kevin James. **8.30** **Frasier.** (R) **9.00** **Frasier.** (R) **9.30** **Sunday Brunch.** **12.00** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.20** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.45** **The Simpsons.** (R) **1.15** **The Simpsons.** (R) **1.45** **Film: True Grit.** (1969) Western, starring John Wayne. **4.15** **Deal or No Deal.** **5.20** **Channel 4 News.** **5.45** **Thought.tv.** **5.50** **Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.** (2010) Premiere. Fantasy adventure, with Georgie Henley. **8.00** **Easter Eggs Live.** In the first of two hour-long editions over the Easter weekend, Mark Evans follows the hatchlings of a variety of creatures the programme has been following for the past week.
9.00 **Labyrinth.** Conclusion. Ancient and modern-day conspiracies are unearthed revolving around three hidden books that hold the secret of the Holy Grail.
11.05 **Film: 28 Weeks Later.** (2007) Britain is repopulated after a virus that turns everyone into bloodthirsty killers dies out, only for the infection to return. Horror sequel, with Robert Carlyle and Rose Byrne.
12.55 **Film: The Pool.** (2007) Premiere. Drama, starring Venkatesh Chavan. **2.30** **Southland.** Police drama, starring Benjamin McKenzie. (R) **3.10** **Come Dine with Me.** Dinner party challenge from Wakefield. (R) **4.05** **Deal or No Deal.** Beat-the-banker game show. (R) **5.00** **Countdown.** With Richard Arnold. (R) **5.45** **Baking Mad** with Eric Lanlard. The patissier opens a pop-up shop in a bar. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05** **Mio Mao.** (R) **6.10** **Fifi and the Flowerpots.** (R) **6.20** **Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) **6.25** **The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.40** **Olive the Ostrich.** (R) **6.45** **Abby's Flying Fairy School.** (R) **6.55** **Rooibarb and Custard Too.** (R) **7.00** **Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.15** **Animal Antics.** (R) **7.20** **Noddy in Toyland.** (R) **7.30** **Little Princess.** (R) **7.45** **Thomas & Friends.** (R) **8.00** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15** **Toby's Travelling Circus.** **9.30** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **9.45** **Jelly Jamn.** (R) **10.00** **Power Rangers Samurai.** (R) **10.35** **Batman: The Brave and the Bold.** **11.00** **Cowboy Builders.** (R) **12.00** **Film: Tinker Bell.** (2008) **1.30** **Film: The Goonies.** (1985) **3.40** **Film: Miss Congeniality.** (2000) **5.50** **5 News Weekend.** **5.55** **Film: Wild West.** (1999)
7.55 **Film: Ghost Rider.** (2007) A curse turns a motorcycle stuntman into a demonic skeletal biker who must take souls to Hell. Fantasy thriller based on the comic-book, starring Nicolas Cage and Eva Mendes.
10.00 **Person of Interest.** Reese is reminded of his final mission for the CIA when an undercover assignment to protect a security guard takes an unexpected turn.
10.55 **Film: SWAT.** (2003) A disgraced cop redeems himself by joining an elite unit charged with guarding a notorious prisoner. Action thriller, with Samuel L. Jackson.
1.10 **SuperCasino.** **4.00** **Nick's Quest.** (R) **4.50** **County Secrets.** (R) **5.00** **Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.10** **The Milkshake! Show.** (R) **5.35** **Thomas & Friends.** (R) **5.50** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 **The Voice UK 8.35** **Film:** Shrek Forever After (2010) **10.00** **In the Flesh 11.00** **Family Guy**
BBC Four
7.00 **Film:** The Road: A Story of Life and Death (2012) **8.15** **Top of the Pops: The Story of 1978** **9.05** **Motor Racing at the BBC: That Petrol Emotion** **9.35** **Michael Jackson: Bad** **25** **11.45** **Nile Rodgers: The Hitmaker**
ITV2
3.45 **You've Been Framed! Calendar Special** **4.45** **You've Been Framed! Kids** **5.30** **Film: Peter Pan** (2003) **7.40** **Film: Back to the Future Part III** (1990) **10.00** **Only Way is Essex** **10.50** **Big Rich Texas** **11.50** **Celebrity Juice: The Big Reunion Special**
ITV3
2.25 **Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's** (1957) **4.15** **Film: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's** (1960) **6.05** **Film: The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery** (1966) **8.00** **Film: Intolerable Cruelty** (2003) **10.00** **A Touch of Frost**
ITV4
4.05 **Live British Touring Car Championship** **6.00** **The Professionals** **7.00** **World of Sport: 1970s** **8.00** **Premiership Rugby Union** **9.00** **An Audience with Billy Connolly** **10.10** **Film: Born to Raise Hell** (2010)
E4
2.05 **Revenge** **5.00** **New Girl** **5.30** **The Mindy Project** **6.00** **The Big Bang Theory** **7.00** **Film: Grease** (1978) **9.15** **Film: Blade: Trinity** (2004) **11.30** **The Body Shocking Show**
Film4
3.20 **Big Business** (1988) **5.15** **Arriety** (2010) **7.10** **City of Ember** (2008) **9.00** **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (2008) **11.00** **The Girl Who Played with Fire** (2009)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

A Bunch of Amateurs, BBC2, 10pm

A washed-up Hollywood star is delighted when his agent arranges for him to play King Lear, only to be horrified to learn he has been signed up for an English amateur dramatics group's charity production. Comedy, starring Burt Reynolds and Samantha Bond. (2008)

Executive Decision, Channel 5, 10pm

Terrorists armed with the world's most lethal nerve gas take over an airliner and demand a massive ransom – and only a crack team of intelligence experts can stop them before they carry out their threat to destroy Washington, DC. Action thriller, starring Kurt Russell, Steven Seagal, Halle Berry and John Leguizamo. (1996)

TUESDAY

Polltergeist, BBC1, 12.20am

A family experiences strange events after invisible phantoms invade their home. At first the ghosts seem harmless, simply making things move by themselves. But before long, they spirit away the five-year-old daughter to their own plane of existence, forcing her parents to call on paranormal researchers to find their missing child. Horror, with JoBeth Williams. (1982)



Insomnia, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY

Insomnia, BBC1, 11.05pm

A detective is sent to Alaska to investigate a murder during a month when the sun does not set. Sleep deprivation starts to take its toll, and he accidentally shoots his partner dead. He tries to cover it up, but the criminal they were hunting has seen everything and blackmails the cop into helping him escape justice. Thriller directed by Christopher Nolan, starring Al Pacino, Robin Williams and Hilary Swank. (2002)

THURSDAY

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou, BBC1, 11.30pm

An eccentric marine expert sets out in search of a legendary shark that ate his old friend and shipmate. Unfortunately the voyage is riddled with problems, including a man claiming to be his long-lost son, a pursuing pirate crew and a rival oceanographer. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, starring Bill Murray. (2004)

FRIDAY

King Kong, ITV, 10.35pm

A maverick film-maker and his cast and crew board a ship bound for a mysterious island – but when they arrive, a giant gorilla carries off their leading lady. As the crew makes its way through the teeming jungle to find her, the director concocts a dangerous scheme to capture the great ape and take it back to New York. Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, starring Naomi Watts and Jack Black. (2005)

Pick of the Week

No cause for celebration for the returning Doctor

If you're a Doctor Who fan, 2013 is going to be a very big year indeed.

November 23rd marks the 50th anniversary of the science fiction show, and the Beeb is pulling out all the stops to celebrate it.

In the past, such events have been marked by special editions featuring previous actors to have played the Doctor, but show-runner Steven Moffat is giving away as little information this time around as he can get away with.

Instead, he explains it's in 3D (which we already knew anyway) and is going to be bigger and better than ever before. Frankly, if he'd said anything but that, we'd think he'd lost his marbles – OF COURSE it's going to be amazing. But no matter how much we beg, Moffat won't budge: what he will talk about (a bit anyway) are the new episodes heading our way.

We're about to see the second half of season seven, which began last autumn when Amy and Rory were still aboard the Tardis; seems a long time ago, doesn't it?

They're now gone and the Doctor has been moping about the universe, although he did stop off in Victorian London to meet Clara, a fast-talking quick-witted young woman who seemed to die at the end of the Christmas special. But did she?

Apparently not, because here she is, large as life again and living in modern-day London.

In this week's episode, she helps the Time Lord defeat wi-fi-dwelling villains who steal people's souls. He then thinks she'd make the perfect companion, but she isn't so sure. Obviously he twists her arm because she's played by Jenna-Louise Colman, who we've already been told will be a regular in the series.

Moffat was instrumental in casting Colman, and he's pleased he did: "I think she fits in perfectly, brings a whole new side to Matt to the fore, and she's sort of charming, flirtatious, lovely, and is discovering all those things about Doctor Who for the first time that we all know and making them therefore brand new."

"She's also, I think, a genuine star."

But what else can we expect to see over the coming weeks?

"We've got returning monsters, we've got Ice Warriors and the Cybermen coming and some zombies creatures as well," says Moffat. "We've got all of that and we've got a huge range of settings - we've got under the sea, we've got a fantastic alien planet, an adventure actually on the rings of the planet."

"We've got Victorian Yorkshire, which I think everyone wants to see. And the Doctor's biggest secret, revealed for real. We're not kidding, we are actually going to do it, we're going to reveal his biggest secret."

Hmmm... at last, a revelation of sorts – can't wait for that. But what can it be? The Doctor's real name? What happened to his long-lost granddaughter Susan, abandoned in London in 2150AD?

Knowing Moffat, it's all just a tease. But we'll be gripped, like the rest of the nation, desperate to find out what happens next in the Doctor's amazing adventures in space and time...



Matt Smith stars in Doctor Who, Saturday, BBC1, 6.15pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Coronation Street ITV, 7.30pm

We used to have Karl pegged as a feckless waster – not a man you'd want to rely on, but not actively dangerous. However, by setting fire to The Rovers and leaving Sunita to die there, he's moved up into the soap villain division. To make matters worse, Stella is still under the impression he's actually a hero as he's discharged from hospital, and insists he's welcome to stay at Number 13 with her. And with the doctor warning Dev that they might have to switch off Sunita's life-support machine, it looks like one is going to be able to expose Karl for the deluded arsonist he is.

Jonathan Creek: 'The Clue of the Savant's Thumb' BBC1, 8.30pm

Before Jonathan Creek came along, most people thought Alan Davies was just another young comedian. But thanks to his performance in David Renwick's hit series about a crime-solving magician's creative consultant, that all changed. Creek became hugely popular, and fans are always desperate for a new run. One isn't forthcoming, so they'll have to make do with this new one-off – and mighty fine it is too. Subtitled The Clue of the Savant's Thumb, it reveals what happens when Creek and fellow investigator Joey Ross become involved in a complex case at a girls' boarding school involving a secret society and what appears to be supernatural events. Sheridan Smith returns as Joey, while Rik Mayall, Joanna Lumley and Nigel Planer guest star.

TUESDAY

The Great British Sewing Bee BBC2, 8pm

Whether it's the current economic climate encouraging us to make do and mend, the vogue for all things vintage, or the fact that you can do it while watching the telly, sewing has been making something of a comeback. In fact, it's so popular, the brains behind the Great British Bake-Off have decided to base a new series around it. Presented by Claudia Winkleman, it sees eight needlepersons competing to be named Britain's best amateur sewer. In the Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood roles will be May Martin from the WI and Savile Row tailor Patrick Grant – expect 'puckering seam lines' to become the new soggy bottoms.

WEDNESDAY Hillsborough: Never Forgotten BBC2, 9pm

Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough Stadium will always be known as the place at which 94 Liverpool supporters died on April 15, 1989, while attending an FA Cup semi-final match between their team and Nottingham Forest – two more fans died later. This documentary is being broadcast to mark the first anniversary of the Hillsborough Disaster since the Hillsborough Independent Review published its findings. It's a poignant and thought-provoking film in which survivors, relatives of the

deceased and those who tended to the victims on the day describe how, for over 20 years, they or their loved ones were blamed for what happened until the Bishop of Liverpool, leader of the team that uncovered the truth, revealed what really happened.

Scott & Bailey ITV, 9pm

The north west's answer to Cagney and Lacey have returned for a new series that once again finds them juggling their complicated personal lives with their demanding jobs. However, some viewers may initially find it slightly difficult to sympathise with DC Rachel Bailey (Suranne Jones) who in the months since we last saw her has married

handsome fellow copper Sean (Sean Maguire). He's devoted to her, mood swings and all – so why is Rachel already feeling like she's made a huge mistake? At least DC Janet Scott (Lesley Sharp) is going to get a bit of distraction from her complicated love life.

THURSDAY The Intern Channel 4, 9pm

Ex-Dragons' Den star Hilary Devey hosts this new series in which talented and ambitious

candidates are given a leg up the ladder in their chosen career by giving them the chance to win an internship with some of the UK's most exciting employers. Despite being hungry for success, the candidates do not have the qualifications the companies involved would usually look for so, instead, they will be confronted by a series of challenges to find out how they cope in a certain environment. First up, three young people attempt to impress a hotel group by dealing with a celebrity caught in a compromising position.

FRIDAY

How to Win the Grand National Channel 4, 8pm

For some people, Grand National weekend is the only time of year they set foot in the bookies. However, the reality is that not just any old nag can conquer those four-and-a-half miles and 30 fences. To even take part requires dedication and bravery, and to be first past the post – well, that takes a little something extra. Mark Evans sets out to find out just what qualities make up a winner.

Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Karren Brady ITV, 9pm

For people outside football, Karren Brady is probably best known for her appearances on The Apprentice. However, if that's all you know of her, this programme, the final episode of the series, is going to be an education. It charts Brady's spells as managing director of Birmingham City FC and as vice-chairman of West Ham United, as well as her TV career, marriage, motherhood and the time she was diagnosed with a brain aneurysm.



Jonathan Creek: 'The Clue of the Savant's Thumb', Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

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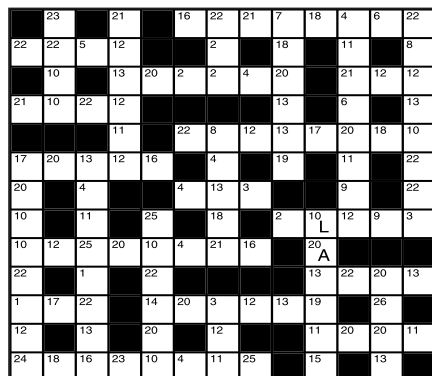
What's On!

Brain Gym

No.214

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	H	X	D	B	Z	N	Q	M	V	P	I	A
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Y	K	L	C	G	F	W	R	S	U	O	T	J

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

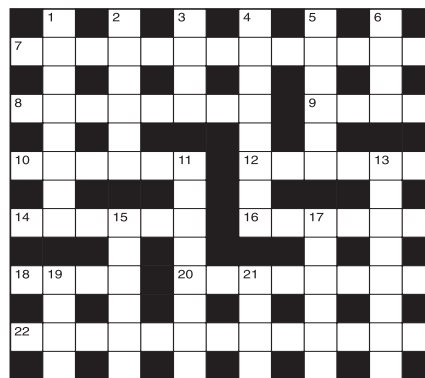
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Practise putting on a glove? (3,4,4,2)
8. Such lovers may make maids err! (8)
9. Water thoroughly (4)
10. Sailor despatched and not here (6)
12. Emphasise, in a manner of speaking (6)
14. An occasion when spirits are called for (6)
16. I am after it in brown or reddish-yellow (6)
18. Country in which hope runs high (4)
20. Goes without saying (8)
22. He digs into the past (13)

Down

1. A bleared version probably isn't (8)
2. God that is around for curing purposes (6)
3. Grant out of misplaced enthusiasm (4)
4. All those required for a full board meeting (5,3)
5. Result of a questionable action? (6)
6. What every shopkeeper needs to cultivate? (4)
11. He hasn't yet made a score (8)
13. Hit and run in off-hand fashion (4-4)
15. Round figure? (6)
17. A depressing feature for meteorologists (6)
19. Clearly it includes him! (4)
21. Just one fish (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

7. Exaggeration (13)
8. Sham (8)
9. Relieve (4)
10. Afternoon nap (6)
12. Avaricious (6)
14. Babe (6)
16. Modest (6)
18. Conspire (4)
20. Sail a ship (8)
22. Thought (13)

Down

1. Dislike (8)
2. Free (6)
3. Daze (4)
4. Power (8)
5. Hinder (6)
6. Burden (4)
11. Self-government (8)
13. Swelling (8)
15. Shrewd (6)
17. Powerful (6)
19. Plunder (4)
21. Wicked (4)

Sudoku

1		5		8		7		6
	9	6	7	1	3		9	3
		7			5		2	
3				2	7			9
	2		8			3		
			2	6	9	5	8	
	6						3	
		4		5				7

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	6	8	1	7	3	2	9	4
1	4	3	9	2	5	6	7	
2	7	9	6	5	4	8	1	3
3	9	6	7	1	8	4	5	2
4	8	1	9	2	5	7	3	6
7	5	2	4	3	6	1	8	9
8	2	5	3	6	7	9	4	1
9	3	7	5	4	1	6	2	8
6	1	4	2	8	9	3	7	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Epee; 8 Cradle song; 9 Schooner; 10 Arcs; 12 Scotch; 14 Mishap; 15 Colour; 17 Benign; 18 Asti; 19 Amenable; 21 Tree-doctor; 22 Edge. Down: 2 Precocious; 3 Echo; 4 Launch; 5 Alarm; 6 Assassin; 7 Ages; 11 Changeling; 13 Two-timer; 16 Reason; 17 Breath; 18 Ants; 20 Acre. QUICK - Across: 1 Trip; 8 Abominable; 9 Spirited; 10 Exit; 12 Scarce; 14 Exempt; 15 Linger; 17 Custom; 18 Tell; 19 Calendar; 21 Distribute; 22 Deep. Down: 2 Respective; 3 Pair; 4 Bottle; 5 Middle; 6 Careless; 7 Sent; 11 Improbable; 13 Regulate; 16 Recoil; 17 Colour; 18 Tidy; 20 Need.



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Home of Property

Extended house in sought-after area



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AWELL-PRESENTED and extended three bedroom detached house in the sought-after area of south Walsall is on the market based on offers around £249,950.

The property in Woodside Road briefly comprises of porch, hall, lounge, sitting room/conservatory, fitted kitchen, separate utility, downstairs WC, three bedrooms and family bathroom, mature front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

On the ground floor the lounge, 13ft 9in by 12ft, has a feature fireplace with tiled hearth, timber mantle and inset living flame gas fire while the sitting room/conservatory is 19ft 7in by 12ft and has a feature fireplace with tiled hearth and inset

living flame gas fire, with the conservatory itself having door to the rear garden.

The kitchen, 10ft 1in by 8ft 11in, has a range of wall and base units with work tops, Butler sink, gas cooker point, extractor fan and pantry, with a utility room with plumbing for washing machine and dishwasher and space for fridge/freezer. There is also a downstairs WC with toilet and wash hand basin.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath with shower over, WC and wash hand basin. Outside to the front of the property is a gravelled driveway with parking for two cars and lawn, while to the rear is a patio area, lawn, trees and shrubs.

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The sitting room which leads out into the conservatory and, right The front of the well presented extended house in Walsall

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Extended house is on a generous plot



The imposing front of the extended detached house in Hednesford

A four bedroom extended detached house on a generous size plot in Hednesford is for sale with a price tag of £275,000.

The property in Littleworth Hill benefits from central heating and double glazing with accommodation briefly comprising of entrance porch, hall, guest WC, lounge diner, fitted breakfast kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms, bathroom and shower room, and outside a driveway with garage and private rear garden.

On the ground floor the lounge diner has a feature sandstone fire surround with stone effect hearth and inset with coal effect living flame gas fire while the breakfast kitchen - 10ft 5in by 9ft 11in - has a range of wall and base units, display cabinets, work surfaces incorporating sink drainer and mixer tap, breakfast bar, built-in oven and grill with extractor hood over, fridge and freezer.

Shower

There is also a utility room with wall and base units, work surfaces, sink drainer, plumbing and space for washing machine and dish-washer, space for tumble dryer and French doors to the rear garden, and a WC with toilet and wash hand basin.

On the first floor are four bedrooms, a bathroom with white suite of panelled bath, pedestal wash hand basin and WC, and a shower room with double cubicle, his and hers wash hand basins in vanity unit, WC and bidet.

Outside to the front is a driveway to the garage while the rear garden has a paved patio area with steps down to a lawn and display borders.

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The raised garden laid mainly to lawn with shrubs along the edge



The clean and spacious lounge at the house in Hednesford

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8 Sunset Close, Great Wyrley	11.15 am	11.15 am
13 Jacobs Hall Lane, Great Wyrley	11.45 am	11.45 am
200 Churchill Road, Bentley	12.45 pm	12.45 pm
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FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Semi-detached house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Part gas fired central heating
- ◆ In need of renovation/improvement

LOT 2 GUIDE PRICE: £80,000-£85,000



162 MARSH LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Inter war semi-detached house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ In need of modernisation

LOT 3 GUIDE PRICE: £80,000



FLATS 1 & 2, 10 CROSS STREET, BRIDGTOWN
FREEHOLD INVESTMENT

- ◆ Two - one bedroomed flats
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Fully double glazed
- ◆ Currently let producing \$8,820 per annum

LOT 4 GUIDE PRICE: £50,000-£60,000



200 CHURCHILL ROAD, BENTLEY, WALSALL
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Semi detached house
- ◆ Two bedrooms
- ◆ In need of comprehensive refurbishment

LOT 5 GUIDE PRICE: £90,000-£100,000



8 SUNSET CLOSE, GREAT WYRLEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Linked detached bungalow
- ◆ In need of some improvement
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Gas fired central heating
- ◆ Fully double glazed

LOT 6 GUIDE PRICE: £100,000-£120,000

BUILDING LAND

LAND TO REAR OF: 91 OLD FALLOW ROAD, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Residential building land with the benefit of planning permission for residential development for two detached residences with private drive access
- ◆ Located in popular residential area
- ◆ Width on building line - 22m approx.
- ◆ Depth of main plot - 32m approx. (average approx.)
- ◆ Area - 915 sq.m (108 yds sq.) or thereabouts

LOT 7 GUIDE PRICE: £50,000



114 COPPICE ROAD, RUGELEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Inner terraced house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Front and rear gardens
- ◆ Requiring refurbishment

LOT 8 GUIDE PRICE: £125,000



EDWARD STREET CLUB, EDWARD STREET, CHADSMOOR
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Substantial brick built premises standing on a large corner plot
- ◆ Suitable for:
- ◆ Investment
- ◆ Re-development opportunity
- ◆ Owner occupation
- ◆ Total site area - 0.392 acre or thereabouts

LOT 9 GUIDE PRICE: £100,000



INDIVIDUAL BUILDING PLOT ADJOINING TOPEKA, HOLLY LANE, CHESLYN HAY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Individual building plot with outline planning permission for residential development
- ◆ Located in popular residential area
- ◆ Width - 12m (approx.) on building line
- ◆ Depth - 47m (approx.) maximum

LOT 10 GUIDE PRICE: £90,000-£100,000



13 JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Semi-detached house
- ◆ Two bedrooms
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ In need of modernisation



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Home of Property

Four bedrooms make it ideal for a family home

A FOUR bedroom detached house in Quinton Avenue, Great Wyrley, is for sale priced at £220,000.

The property benefits from central heating and double glazing, with accommodation briefly comprising of entrance porch, hall, lounge diner, dining room, refitted breakfast kitchen, four double bedrooms, refitted bathroom and conservatory, as well as driveway with garage and rear garden.

The property is approached over a driveway, while on the ground floor is a lounge/diner which is 22ft 9in by 10ft 5in with an Adam style fire surround with marble effect hearth housing a coal effect electric fire and patio doors to a conservatory which is 9ft 11in by 10ft 7in.

Space

There is an extended dining room and refitted breakfast kitchen which is 15ft 5in by 9ft 5in and has a range of wall and base units, work surfaces, one and a half bowl sink and drainer with mixer tap, breakfast bar, integrated appliances to include double oven, five ring gas hob with extractor hood over, plumbing and space for washing machine and dishwasher and space for fridge freezer.

On the first floor are four bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite comprising panel bath with shower, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

There is also an integral garage, while outside the rear garden has a paved patio area, lawn, borders with shrubs and fruit trees and sun terrace.

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The four bedroom Great Wyrley detached house on the market for £220,000 and, left, the refitted breakfast kitchen has a full range of equipment

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- Two Bedrooms
- Shower Room, DG
- Secure parking
- EPC current rating C

£575pcm



SUTTON ROAD, WALSALL

- First Floor Flat
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen With Some Appliances
- Gas Central Heating
- EPC current rating D

£495pcm



FARRIERS MILL, WALSALL

- Semi-Detached House
- Three Bedrooms, Lounge
- Dining Kitchen With Hob & Oven
- Bathroom With Bath & Shower
- Attachment
- Detached Garage
- EPC current rating C

£550pcm



TAME STREET EAST, WALSALL

- Semi-Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Bathroom
- DG & GCH
- Driveway

£500pcm



MILL LANE, WALSALL

- Terrace House
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Bathroom
- EPC current rating D

£450pcm



WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, BLOXWICH

- Three Bed Terrace
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Lounge & Bathroom
- GCH & DG
- Storage & Garden
- EPC Current Rating D

£450pcm



MILTON ROAD, FALLINGS PARK

- Mid Terrace Property
- Three bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Kitchen, GCH
- Current EPC rating E

£425pcm



COTTERELL COURT, WALSALL

- Ground Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Lounge / Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Electric Heating, UPVC DG
- EPC current rating C

£400pcm



WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY

- First Floor Flat
- Spacious Lounge, Kitchen
- Bathroom with Bath & Shower over, w.c. & hand Basin
- One Double Bedroom
- One Car Parking Space at rear
- EPC current rating D

£350pcm



WEST BROMWICH ROAD, WALSALL

- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Re-Decorated Throughout

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 SOLED VICTORY AVE, DARLASTON Three Bed Semi Detached Having Porch, Entrance Hallway, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing And Enclosed Rear Garden. £84,995	 FOR SALE SQUIRES GROVE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Modern First Floor Apartment In This Popular Location, Lounge/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, D/Glazing, Allocated Parking, Must View! £89,995	 FOR SALE ORCHARD RD, WILLENHALL Well Presented Cottage Style Two Bed Mid Terrace Having Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Master Bedroom With Fitted Furniture, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower Cubicle, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Large Rear Garden, Cul-De-Sac Location, Must View. £92,995	 FOR SALE KENNEDY CRESCENT, DARLASTON Well Presented Three Bed Semi Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, First Floor W.C., UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Off Road Parking. £94,500 ONO	 FOR SALE COLTHAM RD, SHORT HEATH Fully Refurbished Two Bed Mid Terrace Property Having Lounge, Spacious Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing & Gas C/Heating. £96,995	 FOR SALE GRIFFITHS DR, ASHMORE PARK Recently Refurbished Two Bed Semi Having, Through Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Generous Rear Garden With Vehicle Access. £102,500	 FOR SALE HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL Modern Two Bed Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Allocated Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden. £103,995	 FOR SALE RADSTOCK RD, NEW INVENTION Two Bed Semi, Having Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Breakfast Bar, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Detached Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Sought After Location. £104,995
 FOR SALE CHATSWORTH CLOSE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Modern Two Bed Semi Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, Detached Garage, Driveway, UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. £109,995	 FOR SALE CHATSWORTH CL, WILLENHALL Immaculately Presented Extended Three Bed End Terrace, Spacious Through Lounge, Open Plan Breakfast Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking. £124,995	 FOR SALE BALMORAL DR, NEW INVENTION Spacious Semi Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/Diner With Patio Doors Into Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Three Generous Bedrooms, Additional Loft Room, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Create Print Driveway, Popular Location. NO CHAIN. £124,995	 REDUCED OAK ROAD, WILLENHALL Well Presented Three Bed Traditional Semi Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen Diner/Sitting Room, Family Bathroom, Part Double Glazing, Central Heating, Garage And Off Road Parking, Sought After Location. NO CHAIN. £124,995	 FOR SALE FARBROOK WAY, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi On The Popular Summer Hayes Estate Having Entrance Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Majority UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway. £129,995	 FOR SALE WILLENHALL STREET, DARLASTON Well Presented Four Bedroom Extended Semi, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility Area, W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway, Garage. £134,995	 FOR SALE SWEET BRIAR LANE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage And Driveway. £139,995	 FOR SALE PINEWOOD CROFT, WILLENHALL Immaculately Presented Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Refitted Shower Room, Garage, UPVC D/Glazing & Block Paved Driveway. £144,995

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£249,995



COPPICE LANE, WILLENHALL

Extended Four Bed Semi Having Entrance Hallway, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage & Driveway. MUST VIEW
£159,995



ALBION RD, WILLENHALL

Large Victorian End Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen With Integrated Appliances, Four Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.
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Sandbeds Road Willenhall



Offers Over £250,000

An exceptional traditional style four bedroom detached home situated on an exceptional plot with front and rear access.

Thompson Street Willenhall



£220,000

A showhome style four bedroom and two bathroom detached house situated on the extremely sought after and prestigious Manor development.

Banks Street The Manor



Offers Over £200,000

A six bedroom detached residence benefitting from many features such as picture rails, covings and stained glass windows.

Broad Lane, Essington



Offers Over £200,000

An extended three bedroom detached home benefitting from exceptional master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite.

Rowan Drive Essington



Offers Over £200,000

A well presented three bedroom detached house in a cul-de-sac location. Offered with no chain.

Glaisdale Grove Willenhall



£170,000

A four bedroom detached house situated on the Kingfisher development. Presented in immaculate order and benefitting from a stunning loft room.

Greenhill Close Willenhall



£170,000

A showhome style three bedroom detached house situated in a cul-de-sac location close to Pool Hayes School.

Welland Grove Willenhall



£140,000

A well presented three bedroom semi detached house with conservatory. Situated in a cul-de-sac location on the Kingfisher Development.

March End Road Wolverhampton



£140,000

A newly refurbished two bedroom semi detached bungalow with conservatory and detached garage. Benefits from exceptional frontage. No chain.

Cheniston Road Willenhall



Offers Over £135,000

An immaculately presented three bedroom semi detached house with garage situated on a popular road in New Invention.

Pooles Lane Willenhall



£120,000

A three bedroom semi detached house benefitting from being recently refurbished. Offering detached garage to the rear.

Overdale Drive Walsall



Offers Over £115,000

A rarely available two bedroom semi detached house with garage on the sought after Briarsleigh development.

Lime Close Bentley



£90,000

A recently refurbished three bedroom terraced home situated in a cul-de-sac location in Bentley. Offered with no chain.

Victoria Street Willenhall



Offers Over £70,000

A well presented two bedroom terraced house on a popular street close to Willenhall Town Centre. Offered with no chain.

Jane Lane Close Walsall



£70,000

A three bedroom end terrace house situated on a popular road in Bentley. Benefits from open plan living and no chain.



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Bloxwich Lichtfield Road
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● Off Road Parking
£235,000



Bloxwich Field Road
● Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Fully Re-Furbed●Two Reception Rooms
● Re-Fitted Kitchen●Conservatory
● Utility Room/W.C.●Family Bathroom
● Rear Garden●Garages & Workshop
In the Region of £199,000



Bloxwich Lichfield Road
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Kitchen●Cloakroom W.C.
● Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
● Garage & Off Road Parking
In the Region of £175,950



Willenhall Crab Lane
● Four Bedroom Link-Detached
● Through Lounge/Diner●Kitchen
● Ground Floor Shower Room
● First Floor Shower Room●Utility Room
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Bloxwich Wolverhampton Road
● Four Bedroom Detached
● Large Lounge
● Breakfast Kitchen
● Dining Room
● Rear Lobby/Utility
Offers in excess of £166,000



Willenhall Pattenham Close
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●En-Suite
● Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
● Allocated Parking
In the Region of £149,950



Bloxwich Goscoe Lane
● Extended Three Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms●Breakfast Room
● Kitchen with Pantry/Larder
● Study●Bathroom●Integral Garage
● Garage & Ample Off Road Parking
In the Region of £149,950



Walsall Leamore Lane
● Three Bedroom Town House
● Kitchen/Diner●Study●Cloakroom W.C.
● First Floor Lounge●Family Bathroom
● En-Suite Shower Room●Gardens
● Detached Garage
In the Region of £145,000



Bloxwich Harrison Street
● OPEN DAY SAT 13TH OF APRIL 2013 BETWEEN 11AM & 1PM
CALL 01922 711444 TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT
● Victorian Three Bed End-Terrace
In the Region of £137,500



● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen●Utility●Cellar
● Re-Fitted Family Bathroom
● Guest W.C.
● Front & Rear Gardens
In the Region of £137,500



Walsall Tenbury Close
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Fitted Kitchen●Lounge●Shower Room
● Electric Heating & Gas Central Heating
● Rear Landscaped Garden
● Front Garden & Off Road Parking
£137,500



Willenhall John Riley Drive
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Lounge●Family Bathroom
● Fitted Kitchen
● D.Glazing & Gas Heating●Driveway
● Integral Garage●Front & Rear Gardens
In the Region of £136,995



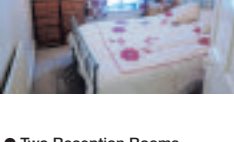
Walsall Segundo Road
● Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Kitchen●Utility Room●Lounge
● Storage Room●Bathroom
● Gardens●Off Road Parking
£135,000



Bloxwich Well Lane
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Lounge/Diner
● Family Bathroom with separate W.C.
● Integral Garage●Front & Rear Gardens
● Large Driveway
Offers in excess of £130,000



Bloxwich Harrison Street
● OPEN DAY SAT 13TH OF APRIL 2013 11AM -1PM PLEASE CALL 01922 711444 TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT
● Victorian Three Bed End-Terrace
In the Region of £137,500



● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen●Utility●Cellar
● Re-Fitted Family Bathroom
● Guest W.C.
● Front & Rear Gardens
In the Region of £137,500



Walsall Smiths Flour Mill
● Two Bedroom Apartment
● Lounge●Integrated Kitchen
● Electric Heating & Double Glazing
● Allocated Parking
● Family Bathroom
Offers in excess of £125,000



Willenhall Balmoral Drive
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Through Lounge/Dining Room
● Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom
● Garage & Off Road Parking
In the Region of £125,000



Bloxwich Grantown Grove
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● New Fitted Kitchen
● Lounge●Fitted Bathroom
● Two Allocated Parking Spaces
● Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
In the Region of £116,950



Willenhall Squires Grove
● Two Bedroom Coach House Apartment
● Lounge/Dining Room
● Family Bathroom
● Converted Garage
● Allocated Parking●DG & GCH
£110,500



Bloxwich Maple Street
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Extended Kitchen/Diner
● Study●Ground Floor Bathroom
● Utility & Garage●Rear Garden
● Block Paved Driveway
Offers in excess of £105,000



Bloxwich Beatrice Street
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Front Lounge●Rear Sitting Room
● Breakfast Room●Study●Fitted Kitchen
● Bathroom●D.Glazed/Central Heating
● Gardens with Off Road Parking
Offers in excess of £99,950



Rushall Stanier Close
● Ideal for First Time Buyer
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Fitted Kitchen●Lounge/Diner
● Bathroom●D.Glazing & Electric Heating
● Gardens●Allocated Parking Spaces
£99,950



Walsall Spring Court, Birmingham Road
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
● Lounge●Shower Room
● Fitted Kitchen
● Private Parking
● Shared Gardens●Garage
Offers in excess of £95,000



Bloxwich Margam Crescent
● Three Bedroom Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen/Diner with Patio Doors
● Family Bathroom shower over bath
● Front & Rear Gardens●Central Heating
● Double Glazing including Patio Doors
In the Region of £95,000



Walsall Dartmouth Close
● Two Bedroom End-Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
● Downstairs W.C./Utility●D.Glazing
● Side Veranda/Sun Room
● Gas Central Heating●No Upward Chain
Offers in excess of £90,000



Bloxwich Harrison Street
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen●Ground Floor Bathroom
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
● Cellar●Front & Rear Gardens
Offers in excess of £90,000



Walsall Hadley Way
● Three Bedroom End-Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen●Lounge
● Fitted Kitchen●Utility Room/Study
● Family Bathroom●Gardens
● Detached Garage to the Rear
Offers in excess of £90,000



Bloxwich Bagnall Street
● Three Bedroom Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen●Guest W.C.
● Bathroom●Conservatory
● Rear Garden
● Block Paved Driveway
In the Region of £85,000



Bloxwich Pershore Road
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Lounge●Dining Room
● Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Double Glazed●Central Heating
● Rear Garden●Off Road Parking
In the Region of £84,950



Bloxwich Booth Street
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
● Cloakroom W.C.●Shower Room
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking
In the Region of £84,950



Willenhall Tennyson Road
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
● Bathroom●Separate W.C.
● Partial Double Glazing
● Gas Central Heating●Gardens
In the Region of £76,000



Willenhall Argyll Court, Essington Road
● One Bedroom Apartment
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
● Secure Communal Entrance
● Communal Grounds
● Secure Allocated Parking
In the Region of £66,950



Bloxwich Green Lane
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
● Lounge with Storage/Cloak Cupboard
● Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
● Shared Communal Gardens
● Off Road Parking
Offers in excess of £60,000



Bloxwich Kempthorne Gardens
● Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
● Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
● Separate W.C.●Ample Storage
● Secure Communal Entrance
● Communal Grounds●Ideal Investment
Offers in excess of £50,000

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Editor Sharon Walters

Vauxhall supermini with combinations

YOU could argue that Vauxhall is a bit late to the party when it comes to the fashion-led supermini segment dominated by the triumvirate of the Mini, the Fiat 500 and the Citroen DS3, but the Adam's lateness might just be the making of it.

Buyers in this lucrative part of the car market are looking for something different, and more specifically something they can make their own.

With that in mind, try this on for size: the Adam comes in four billion possible combinations. Which is a lot.

By Matt Kimberley

There are around 60,000 different combinations for the exterior and about 80,000 for the inside, but since some combinations aren't allowed for either stylistic or manufacturing reasons, the 4.8 billion theoretical possibilities gets cut back a bit.

As you sit in the dealership, you can choose to change more than you can on any other car, such as the dashboard finish and colour scheme, the headlining style, coloured clips on the wheel spokes, steering wheel trim colour, door trim colour, front grille cross-member colour, wheel style, wheel colour, roof colour, body sticker style and colour, gear lever and handbrake lever finish and then colour, body paint colour, seat fabric type, engine choice, trim level and so on until you realise that it's dark and all the sales staff have gone home.

Ultimately, there will be 40 styles of wheel alone, before you move into wheel colours and clips. Expect the 12 funky named exterior colours such as Papa Don't Peach, James Blonde, Buzz Lightgreen and I'll Be Black to be expanded as well. Before too long, there might just be an Adam for every person on the planet. But if you prefer, you can just choose an 'Extreme Pack', which

basically gives you a ready-made design built from a combination of the available choices into a cohesive look. The choice is yours.

On more familiar ground, there are three trim levels, but none will have any identifying badges, so no one will necessarily know whether any individual Adam is the cheapest but still well-equipped Jam, mid-range Glam or the sporty Slam.

The engine under the bonnet will stay a secret too; from a choice of 1.2 and 1.4 petrols. There's no diesel and there never will be according to Vauxhall. There's just no demand for it in a car this small. And small it is, based on a shortened and heavily modified Corsa chassis.

Responsive

The larger engine is much more responsive than the 1.2, which feels a bit dim-witted at times compared to the genuinely sharp and lively character of the 1.4.

It comes in two power outputs, but either will do the job nicely. The 1.4 is still lightweight too, which gives the Adam a lovely lightweight and nimble feel at the front wheels. It bites into turns as keenly as a vampire bat; all the more so with larger, wider wheels and tyres fitted.

There's not much body roll either. Strengthening work around the suspension has done wonders to keep the stylish little nipper flat and stable without denting its thoroughly likeable sense of chuckability.

Even if you only potter around in it, there's a certain sense of joie de vivre, which is partly thanks to the interior style and partly down to the well-judged balance between the way the steering, pedals and slightly notchy five-speed gearbox feel. It's easy to drive and easy to enjoy, although on the motorway the revs spin too high and it buzzes along a little out of its comfort zone.

There's not a massive amount of room in the boot.

Although it's relatively deep and you can squeeze a surprising amount of soft baggage in, the pinching point where the rear seat backs and the load lip come closest is a bit of a barrier to getting bigger stuff or hard cases in.

Vauxhall hasn't been shy with the equipment on offer, but with all models blessed with alloy wheels, a chunky leather-covered steering wheel and colourful interiors, the actual equipment you get takes a back seat to the enjoyment and feel-good factor the car gives you. When was the last time automatic windscreen wipers made you grin like a fool anyway?

Nonetheless, all the gear you could hope for is available, including a clever touchscreen 'Intellilink' interface that simply transfers your smartphone's main functions to the display.

The Adam might be late to the party, but it's learned from its rivals and it moves the game on.

Astonishing customisation potential in a great-looking starting package is likely to be a sizeable ace up the Adam's sleeve.



The Vauxhall Adam which offers thousands of different combinations



The interior has huge scope for personalisation

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Compact and sleek new Merc starts from £24,355



The new Mercedes CLA-class looks good but its performance fails to live up to the styling

THE order books for the new Mercedes CLA-Class have been opened, with prices starting from £24,355 on the road.

The compact and sleek four-door saloon blends coupe-like looks with a sizeable boot and the ability to carry five, in a package aimed at younger drivers with a penchant for sportier styling. As such, the range is split into two similar trim lines: Sport and AMG. There are just two engine choices available though, with neither the 1.6-litre petrol nor the 2.1-litre diesel offer-

ing the performance to match the style.

While the petrol version starts at the range entry price, the diesel, which is the lowest-emitting of the two for carbon dioxide with 117g/km, is a whopping £5,000 more expensive at the same trim level.

Standard equipment on the Sport includes attention monitoring, parking and automated braking assist systems, Bluetooth, satnav pre-wiring, dual zone climate control and, on the outside, twin polished exhaust pipes.

The Sport, contrary to its name, also rides on 'Comfort Suspension'. Conversely, the AMG Sport model switches

to 'Sport Suspension', crowned with five-spoke AMG alloy wheels, plus a different grille design, a flat-bottomed steering wheel, grippier upholstery and a subtle AMG body kit.

Upgrading to AMG Sport from the lower level adds £2,200, making the most expensive model the diesel AMG Sport, with a price tag of £31,555.

There are also a host of options and option packs, although with the interior-lifting Exclusive Pack almost £2,000 on Sport models, these don't come cheap.



Audi's clever cylinder deactivation, now introduced to the A1 and A3, helps to cut fuel consumption

Audi cylinder systems are designed to save on fuel

AUDI has revealed A1 and A3 models featuring the same cylinder deactivation systems as its high-performance S and RS models.

'Cylinder-on-Demand' (CoD) technology, which will also be employed in Volkswagen's Polo BlueGT, shuts down the fuel supply to half the engine's cylinders under light throttle inputs and noticeably increases fuel economy.

The two new Audi models will share a 138bhp turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol engine which with the help of the CoD system has averaged up to 60.1mpg under the current official tests. The figure applies to the A1, A1 Sportback and three-door A3, with the five-door

A3 Sportback dipping slightly to 58.9mpg.

CO2 emissions are just 109g/km for the two A1s and the lighter A3. The A3 Sportback is not far behind, on 112g/km, but does sit one road tax band higher and costs £30 for a year instead of £20.

CoD technology, which when used with gentle throttle inputs is imperceptible in its operation, is the latest in the Volkswagen Group's efforts to lower the environmental impact of its cars.

Two of the 1.4-litre engine's four cylinders can be shut off or restarted in just 13 milliseconds, making it supremely advanced among its small petrol engine rivals. As standard it is

combined with stop-start technology for further increased efficiency. It is an 'intelligent' system that judges how the driver is driving and only deactivates cylinders if conditions are right. For example, if the sensors detect an irregular throttle usage pattern like on a twisting road or through a set of roundabouts, CoD will not activate.

Nor will the system work under engine braking, allowing all four cylinders to support deceleration.

With almost identical fuel consumption figures but no default emissions penalties, the CoD-equipped models represent a significant company car tax saving of around 40 per cent compared to the A1 and A3 diesels, according to Audi.

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Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

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Weather is taking toll on fixtures

WALSALL Rugby Club had yet another Midlands One West fixture postponed on Saturday.

Recent wintry conditions will now mean another match has to be re-arranged towards the end of next month.

The Staffordshire Cup semi-final clash with Lichfield was also hit by the snowy conditions and has now been re-scheduled for Wednesday, April 3.

There is also concern over whether this Saturday's game against Northwich will go ahead.

This fixture against the Cheshire team has been postponed on two occasions already.

It is not only the Walsall senior team being affected by postponements.

The Colts and most of the junior teams have outstanding cup and league fixtures to undertake.



Saddlers' Febian Brandy between the Hartlepool pair Peter Hartley and Sam Collins



Walsall hold firm under the home side's aerial threat during the draw at Victoria Park

Own-goal Dave will deal with the misery

WOLVES midfielder David Davis has vowed to bounce back from an own-goal howler, saying: "I wanted the ground to open up."

The 22-year-old gifted Wolves recovered to win 2-1.

His backpass squirmed past keeper Carl Ikeme and Ikeme broke his hand punching the tactics board at half-time.

"It was a bad pass from me and it gave Carl a lot to deal with, so I just wanted the ground to open up at the time really," he said. "I wish it hadn't happened, but it did, so I've just got to put it to the back of my mind."

He praised team-mates' support after midfielder Jamie O'Hara had a word.

"You need people like Jamie and the older lads to help you," said Davis, who replaced Karl Henry in the starting XI.

"They're experienced, so it's probably happened to them in the past and they know how to deal with it."

"Jamie just told me to put it behind me, and support like that definitely helped. I knew I had to respond to it so I came out in the second half and was determined to help us get the three points."

"We all had to dig in deep after half-time but we did well and managed to get the win we needed."

Wolves are at home to fast-fading Middlesbrough in second from bottom, a point from safety.

And the Smethwick-born ball winner insisted they must look to win all their remaining games.

"I think we have to approach all the games between now and the end of the season thinking we have to win them," he said.

"Middlesbrough are on a bad run. But primarily we have to concentrate on ourselves."

Darts knockout to be held at bar

WILLENHALL will stage an open darts knockout for men and women at the town's Gilberts Bar.

The Field Street venue hopes to offer players a £300 prize pot on Sunday, April 21, depending on entries.

Registration for the event will be at 3.30pm on the day, with the first arrows to be thrown from 4pm.

For more information and pre-entries, call Gilberts Bar on 01902 603939.

Point keeps Walsall in promotion hunt

Hartlepool 0 Walsall 0

A CRUNCH Easter looms for manager Dean Smith and his Walsall team.

Three unforgettable months of stunning progress have turned the Saddlers into genuine League One play-off contenders, writes Steve Madeley.

Now, despite a frustrating, freezing afternoon, Smith and Co have the chance to make their magnificent efforts count.

Saturday's windswept drudgery in Hartlepool felt annoyingly like a chance missed for Walsall against a Pools side devoid of confidence and inspiration.

Yet Smith's men ended the weekend one place closer to the top six, and still just four points away, thanks to a hard-fought draw on a horrible day by the North Sea.

Now come three matches against fellow promotion candidates which will go a long way to deciding if a scarcely believable surge is a period of significant advancement or foundations of a truly special campaign.

Potential

Whether Saturday's events represent a minor setback or a small step in the right direction will be known in a few weeks' time.

It was only a point against a desperately poor side who the Saddlers would surely have disposed of had they unleashed their full attacking potential.

On the other hand, it extended an unbeaten run to 10 games and took them into a potentially pivotal Easter programme with momentum still in their favour.

Of all the sides chasing the chance to extend their season into the excitement of play-off action, the Saddlers are surely the team with the stiffest wind in their sails.

That they should have headed back from the coast to the snowy Midlands disappointed with a share of the spoils said much about soaring expectations that have grown from a marvellous run after a baffling slump.



Walsall clear their lines during a potentially valuable draw at Hartlepool



Walsall's new signing Sam Johnstone had a sound debut

Increasing ambitions will add an element of pressure to three games that will determine the eventual direction of their season.

But, having risen from a spell of despair to a position of comfort and optimism, Walsall can attack the fixtures with a freedom and enjoyment that will be absent from the dressing rooms of several of their rivals.

They will acknowledge, however, that some attacking improvement will be required from Saturday's war of attrition if they are to make the most of the opportunity they have carved out for themselves.

They left Victoria Park with defensive play worthy of praise. Debutant keeper Sam Johnstone played a solid part in a display of resilience built on the defiant muscle of captain Andy Butler and the classy intelligence of central defensive partner Paul Downing - aided by the tenacious midfield play of Adam Chambers and Sam Mantom.

Despite some spells of pressure, they rarely looked in serious danger of handing Pools their first goal in six matches.

But, if Johnstone was restricted to just a couple of decent saves on his first appearance, home keeper Scott Flinders was in danger of frostbite as the Saddlers failed to force him into any action of note.

Without leading scorer Will Grigg, Walsall produced a handful of pleasing midfield moves but lacked any genuine punch near the 18-yard box.

The hosts had the better chances of a forgettable first half, with Andy Taylor's important far-post clearance almost turning into a bizarre own-goal before Evan Horwood sent an effort just wide of the Walsall goal.

Johnstone made a routine stop from Steve Howard shortly before a trickier save to keep out a header from Antony Sweeney.

But, having withstood a modicum of Hartlepool pressure, Smith's men found their feet before half-time and made the majority of the running after the break.

They could not, however, turn possession into obvious chances, with a shot wide from Ashley Hemmings the closest they came.

Too many times, promising openings ended with poor decisions, not least when Jamie Paterson stole possession and raced towards goal, only to opt for a tame shot instead of a simple pass to an unmarked George Bowerman.

The final whistle confirmed a result that pleased neither team.

Pools supporters booed their side's latest blank while Saddlers shoulders slumped after their late onslaught went unrewarded.

But for Smith and his players, a point was enough to keep them in the play-off race. Now comes the chance to make their move.



Swimmer Ben Roberts

Best time ever for Roberts

A YOUNG Willenhall swimmer produced a personal best in a big contest.

Ben Roberts, a Year 11 pupil at St Thomas More School, was at the inaugural British Gas International Swimming meet at the John Charles Centre for Sport, Leeds.

Junior swimmers could meet swimming stars such as Fran Halsall and Michael Jamieson and race and gain qualifying times for future events all over the world.

Roberts, one of 25 entrants for the 100m butterfly, swam a personal best time of 59.34 seconds.

The swimmer, who trains every day at Walsall's Gala Baths, said: "I will never forget this experience and hopefully will be there again next year and maybe qualify for the final."

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GB debut success in Aussie rules win

PUPILS from Brownhills School are beating the Aussies at their own game. Students Jack Tift and Craig Degville made their debuts in London for Great Britain's Australian Rules Football team.

They played London Swans – a side 95 per cent comprised of Australians – in the capital and won 38-9. Teacher Ian Mitchell, who captained the side, said: "Some of the Aussies weren't overly happy about this, so it was a tough contest from start to finish."

"Coupled with driving snow from start to finish and a very heavy ball and pitch, it really was a great effort."

"I was very proud to be playing alongside the two lads who have done excellently in the last few years." Degville and another Brownhills student, Cameron Cope, now head to Guildford, Surrey, to join the European Legion, an under-23 European team that each year faces the touring Australian Institute of Sport side – the best 25 Australian under-20 players.

Degville and Cope will be coached by two ex-professionals from Australia before playing the touring side on Saturday, April 6.

On the same day, Tift will again be playing for Great Britain against world champions Ireland at the same venue as a curtain-raiser event.

Academy is in the zone

WALSALL ACADEMY have tried a new sport on the rise.

Inclusive Zone Basketball combines the standard and wheelchair game – big at the London Paralympics.

12B lets players with a physical disability and non-disabled classmates play in a fast-paced game.

The four-a-side game uses zones to match players of equal physical ability.

Walsall Academy was 10th out of 12 in West Midlands regional championships at the University of Worcester.

Tudor Grange Academy, Solihull, piped Nunnery Wood High School, Worcester, to the title and go on to national finals at Worcester Arena on May 1.

British Wheelchair Basketball education officer Matt Gibbs said it was wonderful to see so many schools build on the fantastic coverage of wheelchair basketball and the Paralympic Games.



PGA professional golfer Craig Thomas

Ground-breaking golf to help young

A GROUND-BREAKING pilot scheme is using golf to help young people find the right course.

It is part of diversionary work by Walsall Integrated Young People's Support Service (IYPSS), which offers practical help to young people, focusing on careers guidance and employment support, positive activities and youth justice services.

Coach Craig Thomas, based at The Golf Academy, Essington, near Wolverhampton, delivers six sessions to ten 12-18-year-olds but there is no need to be at a golf course to

Golf

take part. Urban golf sessions at youth centres use Golf Xtreme equipment with follow-up sessions at The Golf Academy introducing more traditional golf clubs.

Thomas said Golf Xtreme equipment offered a chance to do something away from youngsters' normal environment. Golf could help with life skills such as respect for people around them and working together.

"It is easy for youngsters to be

hard on themselves, but through the golf games we have been able to encourage a self-recognition of their own achievement, which can hopefully rub off in other areas of their lives and prevent potential problems in the future."

The scheme is being organised under the umbrella of the Staffordshire County Golf Partnership. County development officer Sean Hammill said: "Golf has far more to offer than many people might think."

"The feedback on this scheme, which is receiving Sportivate

funding, has been very positive. The youngsters have been fully engaged, really behaving well and are learning new skills."

"They are all enthusiastic participants and we are now getting more asking if they can take part." Discounted range balls and a free golf club are offered to encourage the youngsters to maintain interest after the programme finishes.

Staffordshire CGP hopes other groups will try urban golf. Details are available by emailing sean.hammill@btinternet.com

Ludvig is back in at Wolves

LUDVIG LINDGREN is returning to Wolves Speedway in a short-term emergency deal.

The Swede will team up with brother Freddie for a second spell in the black and gold.

The Newcastle rider has agreed a short-term contract with the Monmore Green side to replace talented young Australian Sam Masters, who is still waiting for a visa.

Lindgren will ride in tomorrow's (Friday) Elite League opener with Belle Vue in Manchester – and in the return fixture at Monmore on Tuesday.

Wolves co-promoter Chris Van Straaten said: "We've signed Ludvig for the first four meetings of the season."

"He knows the club, having raced for us before. He's shown promise earlier in his career and we believe he can do a good job for us."

But Van Straaten insists the club are refusing to give up hope on signing Masters.

He said: "Whenever anyone has spoken about the team they've pointed out Sam as a good signing with great scope for improvement, so it's going to be a major blow if the appeals procedure finally fails."

Freddie Lindgren scored eight points and Tai Woffinden nine in the New Zealand Grand Prix.

Easter quiz night for the Lockmen

WILLENHALL TOWN are running an Easter quiz night this weekend.

It takes place on Saturday at Gilberts Wine Bar, Field Street, Willenhall (8pm).

Entry costs £3 per person with a maximum of eight people in each team.

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BUTLER'S DELIGHT ON NEW CONTRACT

WALSALL captain Andy Butler has signed a new one-year deal at the Banks's Stadium to end speculation about his future.

The popular skipper penned a new contract that includes an option for a second season.

The 29-year-old, who has been the Saddlers' player of the season for the last two years, was the subject of online media reports last week claiming discussions had hit a snag.

But he said: "I'm really pleased to have signed this new deal. My career has been revived here."

"I can't praise the gaffer enough, he's treated me well and is one of the main reasons why I have signed."

"He's a great manager and there are some good times ahead for the club, so I am delighted to be part of it," he added.

"The club has treated me well and I am happy and enjoying my football here, which counts for a lot."

"I would say that I am playing some of the best football of my career."

Progressed

"As a group we have progressed well and even when things weren't going our way earlier in the season, we knew what we were capable of."

"There was always that belief we would turn things around and be challenging at the right end of the table."

Walsall still have one eye on a possible League One play-off place, as Butler is all too well aware.

"There are six massive games to go now and if we continue doing the right things, we will give ourselves every chance of enjoying a successful end to the season," he said.

"As I say, this club has a bright future and I am happy that I have got this sorted early and can concen-

trate on my football and helping Walsall push on."

Manager Dean Smith added: "This news is a big boost to the club. Andy has been fantastic for me."

"He is a leader of men and commands the total respect of the players, supporters and myself."

"To win the player of the season award for two years on the spin is no mean feat and I am really pleased that he has committed himself to us."

Butler has made 123 appearances in Walsall colours since signing on a free transfer in 2010.

He previously played for Scunthorpe, Huddersfield and Blackpool.

Walsall's 0-0 draw at Hartlepool at the weekend helped to maintain their momentum and stretch their unbeaten League One run to 10 matches.

They now face a potentially pivotal Easter weekend of matches against promotion rivals.

Tomorrow, the Saddlers are at Yeovil while on Easter Monday they host financially-troubled Coventry.

Two victories would go a long way towards enabling the in-form Saddlers to claim a spot in the end of season shoot-out.

New team kit inspires boys and girls to victories



Youngsters Ryan Easton, Kyree Pace-Walker, Callum Cooke and Molly Griffiths, from Walsall Wood School, with sports development officer Simon Bailey and MacNeillie financial director David Foster

PUPILS got a great boost with new football kit as the boys and girls teams at Walsall Wood JMI each won their first match after donning the new gear.

Kit came from staff at Walsall-based vehicle conversion firm, MacNeillie Company Ltd. The school thanked the

firm's David Foster for organising it. Simon Bailey, sports development coach, said the new kit looked great and players had been full of confidence.

Head Jenny Garratt said they were keen to promote children being active.

"We are a school with Healthy School status, and as such recognise the importance for children to take plenty of exercise and encourage our children to take part in all our sporting activities," she said. "We are all very grateful to receive sponsorship."

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